

CHAPTER XXVI.

NOTES FOR A GEOLOGICAL EXCURSION TO CHARNWOOD FOREST,
TO EXAMINE THE CENTRAL GROUP OF PLUTONIC ROCKS
OF ENGLAND; AND THE CARBONIFEROUS AND CAMBRIAN
STRATA, THROUGH WHICH THEY HAVE BEEN ERUPTED.

IN the central county of our Island, within a hundred miles of the Tertiary deposits of the South-east of England, a group of plutonic rocks, emerges from beneath the strata of limestone, coal, and red marl, which constitute the principal geological features of the midland provinces, and rises up into the bold and picturesque range of hills of CHARNWOOD FOREST. Almost the entire series of British rocks is now brought by the railroads within a few hours distance of the metropolis ; and the geological inquirer may, in the course of a fortnight, examine in their natural situations, the Eocene deposits of the London and Hampshire basins—the Cretaceous and Wealden strata of Sussex, Kent, and Surrey—the Oolitic, Liassic, Triassic, and Carboniferous systems—the Mountain limestone, and its metalliferous treasures—Traps, or ancient lavas, and their effects—strata