

mites which have been accumulated from the drippings of water along fissures of the roof. This interesting cavern will claim more detailed notice in another part of the work.

From this very brief summary, we perceive that the main external features of Yorkshire are strictly explicable on the simplest possible theory; viz. that of the long-continued action of the agitated sea on the strata which composed its bed at the time when this bed was raised to constitute land. These strata, by their various degrees of consolidation and peculiarities of position, offered unequal resistance to the waves, and have been unequally wasted, the softer strata, which suffered most waste, having left the greatest hollows. Thus, the red marls and blue lias have been excavated in the Vale of York, the Kimmeridge clays in the Vale of Pickering, the limestone shales in Craven, and the tertiary sands in Holderness; while harder masses of chalk constitute the Wolds, oolites and sandstones form the moorlands of Whitby, and still firmer sandstones and limestones, with some slaty and some basaltic masses, constitute the higher regions of the west.

To geological differences, on a large scale, we thus clearly trace the main distinctive features of the great natural divisions of Yorkshire. The mineral qualities and positions of rocks, with the accidents to which they have been subjected, give us the clue to the forms of mountains and valleys, the aspect of waterfalls and rocks, the prevalent herbage, and the agricultural appropriation. Even surface colour and pictorial effect are not fully understood without geological inquiry. While limestone 'scars' support a sweet green turf, and slopes of shale give a stunted growth of bluish sedge, gritstone 'edges' are often deeply covered by brown heath, and abandoned to grouse, the sportsman, or the peat-cutter. In a word, geological distinctions are nowhere more boldly marked than in Yorkshire, or more constantly in harmony with the other leading facts of physical geography.