apart, while the Bristol and Somersetshire coal-field is separated from both by the estuary of the Severn. These separations have been brought about by the agency of long-continued denudations, which have swept away thousands of feet of strata bent into anticlinal and synclinal curves in the manner shown at × in fig. 7, p. 33, and fig. 115, p. 601. The coal-field of the Forest of Dean has thus become an *outlier* of the great South Wales coal-field; and the Bristol or Somersetshire coal-field forms another outlier of a great area, of which even the South Wales coal-field is a mere fragment. Such denudations have been common over large areas in Wales and the adjacent counties, and in many another county besides.

Observation and argument alike tell us that we need have no hesitation in applying this reasoning to all hilly regions, whether formed of stratified rocks alone or intercalated with igneous rocks, and thus we come to the conclusion that the greater portion of the rocky masses of our island have been arranged and re-arranged under slow processes of the denudation of old, and the reconstruction of newer strata, extending *over periods* that seem to our finite minds almost to stretch into infinity.

Unconformable stratification, when its significance has been realised by the student, cannot fail at once to impress on the mind a sense of the degradation of strata in some old epoch similar to that which is now going on, and I know of few objects that speak more eloquently of *geological time*.

In the following diagram No. 1 represents an old land surface, in which perhaps beds of sandstone and slate or shale have been upheaved at a high angle. Let us then suppose that, by the wasting power of weather and