

## CHAPTER VI.

## ARENIG, LLANDEILO, AND BALA BEDS.

*The Arenig Beds* succeed the Tremadoc slates at St. David's in South Wales, and in North Wales they also overlie the Tremadoc slates between Towyn and the neighbourhoods of Dolgelli, Ffestiniog, Tremadoc, and Criccieth in Caernarvonshire, north of which they also occur in part of the country between Caernarvon and Bangor. They were first distinguished by Professor Sedgwick, and named Arenig slates, and afterwards termed *lower Llandeilo beds* by Sir Roderick Murchison, who had previously included them as part of the Llandeilo flags in his descriptions and sections of the Lower Silurian rocks that lie west of the Stiper Stones near Shelve, in Shropshire.

In the large district of Merionethshire the Arenig slates appear at the base of the great volcanic series of felspathic lavas and ashes, of which the mountains of Cader Idris, Aran Mowddwy, Arenig, and the Moelwyns form distinguished features in the landscape. They are in these districts never more than about 800 feet in thickness, and the Arenig beds of Merionethshire, at their base invariably consist of beds of grit, sometimes conglomeratic. The higher strata of this sub-formation are generally slaty. For reasons that will afterwards appear, I believe that the Arenig strata, on a