

feet thick, and the Coal-measures, according to De la Beche, 2,765 feet. The limestone contains brown hæmatite iron ore in cavernous holes. There are in the field 23 chief beds of coal.

The Bristol and Somersetshire coal-field was also originally joined to the South Wales Carboniferous rocks, till separated by denudation. The Carboniferous Limestone series near Bristol, and on the Mendip Hills, is about 2,500 feet thick, containing the usual marine fossils in great variety. The Coal-measures and Millstone grit of the Bristol and Somersetshire coal-field lie in a basin, the base of which is formed of this limestone. The Coal-measures are altogether about 7,000 feet thick, and consist of an upper and a lower series, separated by thick beds of grit, called the Pennant rock, about 2,000 feet in thickness, and which itself holds beds of coal, some of them of value. Altogether they contain about 46 beds of coal, with a total thickness of about 98 feet. A large part of this Carboniferous basin is unconformably covered by New Red marl and Liassic and Oolitic strata, and here and there portions of the coal-field are exposed by denudation of the New Red marl between Bristol and the Mendip Hills, where the beds rise rapidly, and a narrow strip of Coal-measures skirts the Mendip limestones, the whole dipping north at high angles. Similar Coal-measures probably underlie the marshes, and part of the secondary strata south of the Mendip Hills.

These three coal-basins, South Wales, Dean Forest, and Bristol, once united, have only been separated by denudation similar to that shown at p. 33. In the case of these coal-fields the intervening spaces are anti-clinal, and the basins synclinal curves, and therefore it is not only possible, but probable, that other coal-basins