

the limestone is about 2,500 feet thick. Going north to Haverfordwest it rapidly thins out, and finally disappears by overlap in a distance of twelve miles. A rapid thinning of the same strata also takes place between the shore of Bristol channel in Glamorganshire and the north side of the South Wales coal-field. In the Mendip Hills the limestone has also a thickness of about 2,500 feet. Traces of it are still seen south of Bideford Bay, at Cannington Park, a few miles north-west of Bridgewater, while on the northern borders of the Culm-measures of North Devon, it may be said to have almost entirely disappeared as a special formation. Among the limestone hills of Derbyshire it is of enormous thickness, and its base is unknown; but so indistinct is the bedding in part of the centre of that region, that it is often as hard to make out the details of stratification as it is in a large consolidated modern coral reef. North of Clitheroe the bosses of limestone are in places remarkably massive, and thin away in various directions so rapidly, that the incautious geologist is at first tempted to imagine faults where none exist. Further north, near Settle, Kendal, and round the sides of the Vale of Eden, it is well developed and distinctly bedded; but passing east and north, into Durham and Northumberland, it rapidly splits up into a few comparatively insignificant bands, separated by thick interstratifications of shale, sandstone, and minor beds of coal. The lower coal-fields in Scotland lie in equivalent strata.

In Ireland the phenomena are still more remarkable, for in the south and south-west, as described by Jukes, the same masses of limestone in a few miles sometimes thin away from some 2,000 to 200 or 300 feet in thickness.