

CHAPTER XI.

NEW RED SANDSTONE AND MARL, AND RHÆTIC BEDS.

THE NEW RED SANDSTONE SERIES, or TRIAS, succeeds the Permian strata. It has received the name of *Trias* from the fact that when fully developed, as in Germany, it consists of the three great divisions of *Keuper* marls, *Muschelkalk*, and *Bunter Sandstein*. Comparatively few genera and no species of bivalve shells pass thus far upwards. The majority of the old genera of Brachiopoda disappear, and the whole grouping of the fossils now ceases to be Palæozoic, and assumes a character common to the Mesozoic or Secondary strata. The British section, with the exception of the *Muschelkalk*, is as follows:—

Keuper	{	Red marl and thin bands of white sandstone, with
		Rock-salt.
Bunter	{	White sandstone and red marl.
		(<i>Muschelkalk</i> absent in Britain).
		Soft red sandstone.
Bunter	{	Quartz conglomerate.
		Soft red sandstone.

These beds, with variations, occupy the undulating lands from Devonshire along the banks of the Severn, round the eastern borders of the Palæozoic rocks of Herefordshire and North Wales. From thence they stretch eastward to the Permian and Carboniferous rocks of Lancashire, North Staffordshire, and Derby-