

The meaning of this is, that distinct coarse Upper Greensand strata were deposited not far from shore in the west, gradually getting finer towards the east, because the finer and lighter material was drifted further from shore. At the very same time, in the farther east of what is now England, the sediments were still finer, and depositions akin to Chalk, and even the Chalk itself, had begun to be formed in a deeper sea, far removed from land, so that according to this view, part of the lowest strata of the Chalk, in the eastern and south-eastern parts of England, were deposited contemporaneously with the coarse Upper Greensand of eastern Devonshire. On no other hypothesis that I know than this of Godwin-Austen's, can the phenomena connected with the Gault, Upper Greensand, and the lower strata of the Chalk, be rationally accounted for, and I believe that hypothesis to be true.

The upper strata of the Chalk consist of nearly pure chalk with lines of flint, and as it accumulated, the sinking of the western and northern fragments of the old continent steadily continued, till at length they almost, if not entirely, sank beneath a sea, broad and silent, except when roused by storms, like the Atlantic of our own time, for though the Echini and shells found in our chalk, show that the sea of those days was not so deep as the present Atlantic, yet the prevalence of prodigious numbers of Globigerina and other Foraminifera shows that the old and the new seas are akin in the nature of their organic sediments. If the whole of the older land was not submerged, (making an allowance for the lowering of the mountain lands by subsequent subaerial waste,) even then we can only suppose that a few insignificant islets rose above a waste of waters, that spread not only over Britain, but also