

CHAPTER XIX.

RECAPITULATION OF THE GENERAL ARRANGEMENT OF THE
STRATIFIED FORMATIONS OF ENGLAND.

THE geology of England and Wales is much more comprehensive than that of Scotland, in so far that it contains many more formations, and its features therefore are more various. England is the very Paradise of geologists, for it may be said to be in itself an epitome of the geology of almost the whole of Europe, and much of Asia and America. Very few European geological formations are altogether absent in England. On the Continent, however, some have a larger importance than in England, being more truly oceanic deposits in some cases, and more thoroughly developed lacustrine or terrestrial deposits in others. In some countries larger than England the whole surface is occupied by one or two formations, but in England nearly all the formations shown in the column (p. 30) are more or less developed. Those of Silurian age lie chiefly in England, in Cumberland and Westmoreland, and in the west, in Wales (fig. 57, p. 304). Above them lie the Old Red Sandstone and Devonian rocks, occupying large areas in Herefordshire, Worcestershire, South Wales, and in Devonshire and Cornwall. Above the Old Red Sandstone come the Carboniferous strata, which form large tracts of Devonshire, Somerset, and part of Gloucestershire,