

Cornbrash, Oxford Clay, Coral Rag, Kimeridge Clay, and Portland beds. These, and the underlying formations, down to the base of the New Red Sandstone, constitute what geologists term the Older Mesozoic or Secondary formations, and all of them, from their approximate conformability one to the other, occupy a set of belts of variable breadth, extending from Devon and Dorsetshire northwards, through Somersetshire, Gloucestershire, and Leicestershire, to the north of Yorkshire, where they disappear beneath the German Ocean.

FIG. 58.



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| 1. Portland Oolite. | 3. Wealden Sands and Clays. |
| 2. Purbeck Limestones and Marls. | 4. Cretaceous strata. |

When the Portland beds had been deposited (see figs. 39 and 58), the entire Oolitic series, in what is now the south and centre of England, and much more besides in other regions, was raised above the sea-level and became land. Because of this elevation, there is evidence in the Isles of Purbeck, Portland, and the Isle of Wight, and in the district known as the Weald, of a state of affairs which must have been common in all times of the world's history. We have there a series of beds, consisting of clays, loose sands, sandstones, and shelly limestone, indicating, by their fossils, that they were accumulated as a delta and in lagoons in an estuary, where fresh water and occasionally brackish water and marine conditions prevailed at the mouth of a great continental river. The position of these beds, with respect to the Cretaceous strata, will be seen in