

CHAPTER XX.

THE MOUNTAINS OF DEVON, WALES, AND THE WEST OF ENGLAND — THE VALLEY OF THE SEVERN, AND THE OOLITIC AND CHALK ESCARPMENTS—THE HILLY CARBONIFEROUS GROUND OF THE NORTH OF ENGLAND, AND ITS BORDERING PLAINS AND VALLEYS—THE PHYSICAL RELATION OF THESE TO THE MOUNTAINS OF WALES AND CUMBERLAND.

IN the far west, in Devon and in Wales, also in the north-west, in Cumberland, and in the Pennine chain which joins the Scottish hills, and stretches from North-umberland to the Carboniferous Limestone hills of Derbyshire north of Ashbourne, we have what forms the mountainous and more hilly districts of England and Wales.

In Wales, especially in the north, the country is essentially of a mountainous character; and the middle of England, such as parts of Staffordshire, Worcestershire, and Cheshire, may be described as flat and undulating ground, sometimes rather hilly. But, as a whole, these midland hills are insignificant, considered on a large scale, for when viewed from any of the more mountainous regions in the neighbourhood, the whole country below appears almost like a vast plain. To illustrate this. Let us imagine any one on the top of the gneissic range of the Malvern Hills (*g*, fig. 57, p. 304), which have, on a small scale, something of a