

mountainous character, and let him look to the west: then, as far as the eye can reach, he will see hill after hill stretching into Wales (1 to 3, fig. 57); and if he cast his eye to the north-east, he will there see what seem in the distance to be interminable low undulations, looking almost like perfect plains; while to the east and south-east there lies a broad low flat (6 to 8), through which the Severn flows, bounded by a flat-topped escarpment (9) facing west, and rising boldly above the plain. This escarpment is formed of the Oolitic formations, which constitute so large a part of Gloucestershire. These, as the Cotswold Hills, form a tableland, overlooking on the west a broad plain of Lias Clay and of New Red Marl, across which, on a clear day, from the scarped edge of North Gloucestershire, far to the west, we may descry the whole of the Malvern range, the well-known clump of firs on the top of May Hill near the Forest of Dean, and away to the north, the distant smoke of Colebrook Dale.

This remarkable Oolitic escarpment stretches, in a more or less perfect form, from the extreme south-west of England northward into Yorkshire (*see Map*). But it is clear that the Oolitic strata could not have been originally deposited in the scarped form they now possess, but once spread continuously over the plain far to the west, and only ended where the Oolitic seas washed the high land formed by the more ancient disturbed Palæozoic strata of Dartmoor, Wales, and the North of England. Occasional outliers of Lias and Oolite attest this fact, as, for example, in the large outlier of Lower Lias and Marlstone between Adderley and the neighbourhood of Whitchurch in Cheshire and Shropshire. This outlier occupies an area of about 50 square miles, and is at least 50 miles distant from the main mass of