

succession all the outcrops of the different Oolitic formations (some of the limestones of which, overlying beds of clay, form minor scarps), we come to a second grand escarpment (11, fig. 57), formed of the Chalk, which in its day also spread far to the west, covering unconformably the half-denuded Oolites, till it also abutted upon the ancient land formed of the Palæozoic strata of Wales, and by-and-by, as that land sunk in the sea, buried it in places altogether. After consolidation and emergence, this Chalk formation also suffered great waste, and the result is this second bold escarpment also facing westerly, which stretches from Dorsetshire on the south coast of England into Yorkshire north of Flamborough Head. Occasional outlying patches of the Cretaceous formations attest its earlier western extension in the south-west of England, and the same overlap may be inferred with justice respecting the relations of the Oolitic, Triassic, and Upper Cretaceous strata throughout the length and breath of England. (*See fig. 59, p. 313.*)

The Eocene strata, which lie above the Chalk, in their day also extended much farther to the west, because here and there, near the extreme edge of the escarpment of Chalk, we find outlying Eocene fragments, and potholes more or less filled with the relics of Eocene strata. On the opposite page there is a drawing of such potholes filled with relics of the Plastic Clay of the Woolwich and Reading beds, which in and round Savernake Forest generally overlies the Chalk in a mere thin covering of red and mottled clay and yellow sand, often mixed with a few rounded flint pebbles. On the top of all there is frequently a layer of semi-angular high level gravel, and all of these have been more or less let down into the potholes, by the dissolving of the underlying chalk