

Association at Oxford in 1847. The dark-coloured part represents the form of the country given in the original sections on a scale of six inches to a mile horizontally and vertically. The strata of this area, and, indeed, of much of South Wales, are exceedingly contorted. The level of the sea is represented by the lower line; and if we take a straight-edge, and place it on the topmost part of the highest hill, and incline it gently seaward, it touches the top of each hill in succession, in the manner shown by the line *bb*. This line is as near as can be straight, and, on the average, has an inclination of from one to one and a half degrees; and it is a curious circumstance that in the original line of sections there were no peaks rising above that line—they barely touched it and no more. It occurred to me when I first observed this circumstance that, at a period of geological history of unknown date, perhaps older than the beginning of the deposition of the Permian and New Red Sandstones, *this inclined line that touches the hill-tops must have represented a great plain of marine denudation.*

Atmospheric degradation, aided by sea waves on the cliffs by the shore, are the only powers I know that can denude a country so as to shave it across, and make a plane surface either horizontal or slightly inclined. If a country be sinking very gradually, and the rate of waste by all causes be proportionate to the rate of sinking, this will greatly assist in the production of the phenomena we are now considering: and a little reflection will show,

