

has been so complete that only a few scattered fragments remain of a once extensive stratum, and where it may not be easy to realize that these fragments are not transported boulders. In Dorsetshire and Wiltshire, for example, the surface of the country is in some parts so thickly strewn with fragments of sandstone and conglomerate "that a person may almost leap from one stone to another without touching the ground. The stones are frequently of considerable size, many being four or five yards across, and about four feet thick."⁷⁵ They are found lying abundantly on the Chalk, suggestive at first of some former agent of transport by which they were brought from a distance. They are now, however, generally admitted to be simply fragments of some of the sandy Tertiary strata which once covered the districts where they occur. While the softer portions of these strata have been carried away, the harder parts (their hardness perhaps increasing by exposure) have remained behind as "Gray Wethers," and have subsequently suffered from the inevitable splitting and crumbling action of the weather. Similar blocks of quartzite and conglomerate, referable to the disintegration of Lower Tertiary beds *in situ*, are traceable in the northeast of France up into the Ardennes, showing that the Tertiary deposits of the Paris basin once had a much wider extension than they now possess.⁷⁶ On a far grander scale, the apparent caprice of general subaerial dis-

⁷⁵ They have been used for the huge blocks of which Stonehenge and other of the so-called Druidical circles have been constructed, hence they have been termed Druid Stones. Other names are Sarsen Stones (supposed to indicate that their accumulation has been popularly ascribed to the Saracens), and Gray Wethers, from their resemblance in the distance to flocks of (wether) sheep. See "Descriptive Catalogue of Rock Specimens in Jermyn Street Museum," 3d ed.; Prestwich, Q. J. Geol. Soc. x. p. 123; Whitaker, Geological Survey Memoir on parts of Middlesex, etc., p. 71.

⁷⁶ Barrois, *Ann. Soc. Geol. du Nord*, vi. p. 366.