

showing that while on the flat ground the strata remain nearly level, they gradually become inclined as they approach the mountains.¹ He pointed out that the mountains are formed generally of the lower or older rocks, while the more level ground lies usually on the upper and nearly horizontal strata. He remarked further that the same sets of strata, in the same order, are generally met with in crossing Britain towards the sea, the direction of the ridge being towards the north-north-east and south-south-west. That he was familiar with the broad features of the succession of the geological formations in England, from the Coal-measures of Yorkshire up to the Chalk, is shown by an interesting table which seems to have been drawn up by him about 1788 or 1789, and which was published after his death.²

Michell enables us to form a clear conception of his views by the following illustration. "Let a number of leaves of paper," he remarks, "of several different sorts or colours, be pasted upon one another; then bending them up into a ridge in the middle, conceive them to be reduced again to a level surface, by a plane so passing through them as to cut off all the part that has been raised. Let the middle now be again raised a little, and this will be a good general representation of most, if not all, large tracts of mountainous countries, together with the parts adjacent, throughout the whole world. From this formation of the earth it will follow that we ought to meet with the same kinds of earths, stones, and minerals, appearing at the surface in long

¹ *Phil. Trans.* vol. li. (1760), part ii. p. 582, *et seq.*

² *Phil. Mag.* vol. xxxvi. p. 102, and lii. p. 186.