

polish; and from which quality it took its denomination from the ancients.

The perpendicular fissures and joints of quarries are often filled and incrustated with concretions, which are sometimes as transparent as crystal, of a regular figure, sometimes opaque: the water flows through the perpendicular clefts, and penetrates even the compact texture of the stone; the stones which are porous, imbibe so great a quantity of water, that the frost splits and divides them. The rain by filtrating through the beds of marle, stone, and marble, load themselves with every matter they can take up or dissolve. These waters at first run along the perpendicular clefts, afterwards penetrate the beds of stone, and deposit between the horizontal joints, as well as in the perpendicular clefts, the matters they have brought with them, and form these different congelations according to the nature of the matters they have deposited; for example, when the water filters through marle, chalk, or soft stone, the matters which they deposit are a very pure and fine marle, which generally enters in the perpendicular cleft of the rocks under the form of a porous, soft substance, commonly very white and light,