

nevertheless breaks off the continuity of the stone, and are what the workmen call hairs. I have often remarked that in marble and stone these hairs cross the blocks entirely, and differ from particular clefts only because their separation is not complete; these kind of clefts are filled with a transparent matter, which is a true spar. There are a great number of considerable clefts in the quarries of free-stone; this proceeds from these rocks often resting on less solid bases than marble or calcinable stones, which generally rest on clay. There are many places where free-stone is not to be met with in large masses; and in most quarries where it is good it lies in the form of cubes and parallel pipedes placed on each other in a very irregular manner, as in the hills of Fontainbleau, which at a distance appear to be the ruins of ancient buildings. This irregular disposition proceeds from the base of these hills being composed of sand, which permits the rocks to sink one on the other, particularly in places that formerly have been worked, which has occasioned a great number of clefts and intervals between the blocks; and we may observe, in every country where sand and free-stone abound, that there are many  
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