

des : it is not uncommon in the United States of North America. In the Alps, it is observed that the rocks of serpentine lie principally on that side which faces Italy, and the coast of Genoa. There is a soft kind of serpentine, sufficiently tenacious to be turned in a lathe into vessels of any shape, which resist the action of fire : hence they are used for culinary and other purposes in some parts of Switzerland, in Lombardy, and even in Higher Egypt. The use of this stone is of great antiquity, being distinctly mentioned by Pliny ; it is called *lapis ollaris*, or potstone.

In Cornwall, serpentine occurs with a micaceous rock lying over granite, and forms part of the promontory called the Lizard point. It occurs also near Liskeard, in the same county. It is not met with in any other part of England that I know of ; but I have observed rocks approaching the nature of serpentine in Charnwood Forest, and in the county of Radnor, in Wales.

Beautiful varieties of red and green serpentine occur in the Isle of Anglesea, about six miles from the Paris copper-mine. It is found in beds of great thickness, associated with the common slate-rocks of the district, which approach in their nature to talcous slate : asbestos lies in considerable quantities in the partings between the beds of serpentine.

Some of the specimens of this serpentine have the characters of the precious or noble serpentine ; the colours are principally dark green, intermixed with spots and clouds of lighter green, and shining laminæ of schiller spar, or crystallized serpentine. The fracture is conchoidal, and it is translucent at the edges. It resists the point of a copper or brass tool, and breaks with great difficulty. Some varieties contain crystalline limestone, but in smaller patches than in the Italian verde-antique ; occasional stripes and spots of steatite, asbest, and quartz, occur in it. The red is sometimes intermixed with a great variety of other rich colours in the same stone, as black, white, greenish white, and dark green. It may be considered as a valuable stone for purposes of ornamental architecture, for in beauty and durability it is not exceeded by the costly marbles of Greece or Italy.

By a mixture of serpentine with talc or steatite, serpentine becomes soft and sectile, and forms the mineral called potstone, before mentioned. A different combination of crystallized serpentine (*diallage*) with jade, or felspar, forms one of the hardest and heaviest of known rocks. It was first noticed by Saussure in rounded pieces and loose blocks, scattered over several parts of the valley, near the Lake of Geneva : to this mineral the name of Saussurite has been given. It is much harder than quartz, and its specific gravity is 3.35 : it is the hardest and heaviest of known rocks, composed only of earthy minerals : the colour is, generally, greenish. Some varieties of saussurite, as well as of serpentine, by exposure to the action of water, acquire an external polish, like a coat of varnish : this may be observed in the pebbles of bright green saussurite near Mont St.