

spreads into a vast plain, which occupies nearly the whole of Cheshire, and the southern part of Lancashire and Shropshire, and forms the grand depository of rock salt. In Derbyshire, gypsum or alabaster is largely obtained from strata of this formation, and is manufactured into pillars, vases, and other ornamental articles; ear-rings and necklaces are made of the fibrous gypsum, or satin spar. The magnesian limestone range, in the south of England, forms a natural terrace from 400 to 500 feet above the level of the sea, its escarpment being to the west.\*

On the continent this group, with some occasional variations in the strata, may be traced from opposite the Devonshire coast skirting the transition rocks of Brittany, and to the west underlying the Jura limestone, and containing gypsum and salt. It encircles the Vosges and the German chain of the Black Forest in the south, forms a zone on either side the Alps, and flanks both sides of the Carpathian mountains. It spreads over an extensive area in central Germany, and prevails in the north and east of European Russia. In North America the new red sandstone occupies the valley of the Connecticut, from Newhaven to the north line of Massachusetts. It contains carboniferous shale, with plants belonging to the fossil genera, *calamites*, *lycopodites*, *voltzia*, and *fucoides*; and bituminous shale, with fishes resembling those of

\* Phillips.