

&c. ; even the fine silicious sandstones have a large proportion of the detritus of other beds. It would therefore appear that the sea which deposited the saliferous group, was bounded by the rocks of whose ruins it is composed ; in like manner as the existence of beaches of flint-pebbles evinces the destruction of former chalk-cliffs. The rock on which Nottingham Castle is built, is a conglomerate containing pebbles of quartz and primary rocks.*

But the most interesting of these conglomerates, or breccias, in this country, are those in which eruptions of lava appear to have been thrown into the ocean of the new red sand, and to have cemented together the water-worn materials, so as to form a *trap conglomerate* ; such at least seems the origin of the amygdaloidal trap, † as it is termed, in the vicinity of Exeter. A few miles to the south of that city, masses of a rock of this kind are interposed between beds of sandstone ; the general appearance of the stone is that of a granular mass, somewhat loosely compacted, of a purplish-brown colour, interspersed with minute portions of calcareous spar, mica, and indurated clay tinged by copper or manganese. It is full of small cells, which are filled or lined with manganese, calc-spar, or jasper ; a structure termed amygdaloidal (almond-like) in geology ; the substance of the rock is an earthy felspar.

* Bakewell's Geology, p. 237.

† Geology of England and Wales, p. 294.