

Ireland. In Somersetshire, Gloucestershire, Shropshire, North and South Wales, and Derbyshire, this limestone constitutes as it were an entire calcareous mass, which is interposed between the old red sandstone, or where that is wanting, between the more ancient silurian and slate rocks below, and the sandstone and shales of the coal above. In Cumberland and Westmoreland, &c. it appears as an elevated belt, which partly surrounds the Cumbrian slate mountains, and forms, on the west, a ridge nearly three thousand feet in height. In Derbyshire the grand physical features of the country are produced by the mountain limestone, which rises into crags or peaks, and hills, presenting bold precipitous escarpments, and giving rise to the wildest and most picturesque scenery. Professor Phillips estimates the thickness of the lower division of limestones with shale partings (provincially termed *scar-limestones*), in Derbyshire, at 750 feet; the alternations of shale, sandstone, limestone, and ironstone, which surmount the former, at 500 feet; and the cappings of millstone-grit which form the summits of the hills, at 360 feet.

The encrinital or Derbyshire marble (page 588) has already been described; marbles with shells and corals also occur, and are employed for ornamental purposes. In some parts of this district, and in the Mendip hills, layers and nodules of the silicious substance called *chert*, are imbedded in the calcareous rock, like the flints in chalk. The masses