

or granite. Near Christiania, in Norway, very dark coloured limestone is changed into white crystalline marble, and slate into mica schist; traces of fossils are not uncommon in some of the crystalline rocks, thus unequivocally proving their metamorphic character.

Granite never occurs stratified, but it often assumes a laminar disposition, which may be considered as a modification of concretionary structure. A prismatic or cuboidal form is sometimes observable, which is the result of incipient decomposition, for the fissures become enlarged by exposure to the air and water, and the rock separates into masses resembling piles of masonry, of which the celebrated *rocking-stones*, and the *cheese-wring* of Cornwall, are examples.\*

33. METAMORPHOSED ROCKS. — Enough has been advanced to convey a general idea of the character and relation of the primary crystalline rocks, and of the agency which has reduced them to their present state; but the question naturally arises—what was their original nature? Intense heat has effected the present arrangement of their molecules, but upon what materials was that influence exerted? The transmutation, by heat, of chalk into crystalline marble—of loose sand into compact sandstone—of argillaceous slate into porcelain jasper—of coal into anthracite—of anthracite into shale and slate—of slate into micaceous schist

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