

Most waters that flow through limestone districts deposit travertine more or less abundantly; and I observed several streams in my rambles in the neighbourhood of Matlock, which appeared to possess this property in as great a degree as the thermal springs. There is a lovely waterfall, which issues from the side of a mountain that flanks the road leading by Via Gellia to Middleton Moor, at an elevation of two hundred feet, and flows into the adjacent valley, bounding and dancing from one mossy knoll to another, and appearing, from the opposite hill, like a stream of molten silver, undulating through a carpet of emerald green. The waters of this cascade have formed a thick bed of travertine along the side of the hill; and the stone is of so firm a texture, that the walls of a cottage hard by are constructed of it. I gathered from the banks of this waterfall, bundles of moss and groups of small shells, incrustated with a beautiful white tufa; and impressions of leaves, twigs, &c. were observable in the blocks of travertine recently quarried.\*

In contemplating the effects produced by these crystal streams, by which perishable leaves and fragile shells are preserved for ages in solid masses of rock, we are reminded of the forcible and eloquent remarks of Sir Humphrey Davy, when observing

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\* Incrustations of moss and wood may easily be obtained from the blocks of travertine at Matlock; but good impressions of foliage are rare.