

another to form a few natural promontories. We must think of extended mineral masses, constituting whole mountain-chains, and lying under plains and valleys themselves. Nor is the term Rock restricted to hard stony substances. It is used comprehensively of the softest soils, because the same materials may be either incoherent or indurated, and their transition from the one state to the other is often undefined and insensible.

Rocks may be divided generally into the Aqueous and the Igneous. 'Continents and mountain-chains, colossal as are their dimensions, are nothing more than an assemblage of many such igneous and aqueous groups, formed in succession during an indefinite lapse of ages, and superimposed upon each other.'\*

#### AQUEOUS ROCKS.

The AQUEOUS ROCKS are sometimes called *Sedimentary*, because they form a *sediment* deposited in water. If we take a pitcher of turbid water, and allow it to become quiescent, there will, by and by, be a muddy deposit found in

\* Lyell's Princip. of Geol., vol. iv., b. iv., ch. 17.