

age, as in Europe. In some of the Gulf States, especially Alabama, tolerably strong brine is obtained by boring into the lower argillaceous and arenaceous strata of the Cretaceous system. On the island of Petite Anse, on the coast of Louisiana, nine miles south of New Iberia, is a remarkable deposit of rock-salt, till very recently the only one known to exist east of the Rocky Mountains. Underneath the soil of at least one hundred and forty-four acres of this island lies a solid bed of pure rock-salt, in which pits have been sunk to the depth of thirty-eight feet without reaching the bottom. The mass of this salt is below high water. It is overlaid by about nineteen feet of clay, gravel, sand, and surface soil. Not less than twenty-two million pounds of salt were removed from the island during the eleven months previous to April, 1863. The supply is probably inexhaustible. This extraordinary mass may occupy the site of an ancient bayou, the bottom of which has been elevated, while the contiguous shores have been either eroded or depressed, so that the land and water have exchanged places. It is the opinion of Dr. Goessman, however, that it is "a secondary deposit, resulting from the evaporations of brine-springs originating from beds of rock-salt in some older geological formation, and not a direct residuum from any sea."*

* Report of the American Bureau of Mines, 1867. Professor E. W. Hilgard has also made an examination of this deposit. (See *Amer. Jour. Sci. and Arts*, Jan., 1869, p. 77.)