

Parliament were chiefly built of this stone. In districts where it occurs, in Nottinghamshire and Yorkshire, there are churches, and castles such as Conisbro', built of it, wherein the edges of the stones are as sharp as if fresh from the mason's hands. You can see the very chisel-marks of the men who built the castle, in days possibly before, but certainly not long after the landing of William the Conqueror.

The Carboniferous Limestone also is an exceedingly durable stone. The Menai bridges were built of it. In Caernarvon Castle the preservation of this limestone is well shown. The castle is built of layers of limestone and sandstone, the sandstone having been chiefly derived from the Millstone Grit, or from sandstones interstratified with the limestone, and the limestone from quarries in Anglesea, and on the shores of the Menai Straits. The limestone has best stood the weather. Sandstone, though durable, is rarely so good as certain limestones, which, being somewhat crystalline, and sometimes formed to a great extent of Encrinites, also essentially crystalline in structure, have withstood the effect of time.

The Carboniferous Sandstones in Lancashire, Derbyshire, Yorkshire, and in Wales and Scotland, afford large quantities of admirable building material, which has been used almost exclusively in the building of Leeds, Edinburgh, Glasgow, and many other towns. Some of it is exceedingly white, is easily cut by the chisel, and may be obtained in blocks of immense size. But in some of the beds there is so much diffused iron, not visible at first sight, that in the course of time this, as it oxidises, produces stains which discolour the exterior of the buildings.

Unlike limestones, basalts and other hard and tough