

marble, sometimes employed for sculptured ornaments on tombstones, dissolves without crust. It is snowy white and more translucent than the ordinary marble. So far as the few weathered specimens I have seen enable me to judge, it appears to be either Carrara marble, or one of the strongly saccharoid, somewhat translucent, varieties employed instead of it. This stone, however, though it forms no crust, suffers marked superficial solution. But it escapes the internal disintegration, which, so far as I have observed, is always an accompaniment of the crust. Yet the few examples of it I have met with hardly suffice for any comparison between the varieties.

(2.) *Internal Disintegration.* — Many of the marble monuments in our older churchyards are covered with a dirty crust, beneath which the stone is found on examination to be merely a loose crumbling sand, of incoherent calcite granules. This crust seems to form chiefly where superficial solution is feeble. It may be observed to crack into a polygonal network, the individual polygons occasionally curling up so as to reveal the yellowish white crumbling material underneath. It also rises in blisters which, when they break, expose the interior to rapid disintegration.

So long as this begrimed film lasts unbroken, the smooth face of the marble slab remains with apparently little modification. The inscription may be perfectly legible, and one would not readily believe the stone to be decayed at all. The moment the crust is broken up, however, the decay of the stone is rapid. For we then see that beneath the smooth, coherent surface-film the cohesion of the individual crystalline granules of the marble has already been destroyed, and that the merest touch causes them to crumble into a loose sand.