

the Black Forest by grey limestone with uneven surfaces and extremely rich in *Telebratulas* and *Lamellibranchs*, and that the fossiliferous limestone was succeeded by variegated marls with interbedded layers of sandstone and gypsum. But although Merian quite accurately described the strata which were afterwards recognised to be *Muschelkalk* and *Keuper*, the special palæontological literature was scarcely sufficiently advanced to permit of his identification of the age of the rocks, and he regarded them both as equivalents of the *Jura* limestone.

In North Germany, Hausmann (1824) and Hoffmann (1823 and 1830) elucidated with praiseworthy accuracy the stratigraphical relations of the *Bunter Sandstone*, *Muschelkalk*, and the superposed marls and clays with each other and with the lower formation of the *Zechstein* and the *Red Underlyer*.

About the same time, in 1825, the relations of the series were explained in the Upper Rhine district by three geologists who made a journey together—Oeynhausien, Dechen, and La Roche. It was in their work that the term "*Keuper*" was first applied to the bright-coloured marls and clays above the *Muschelkalk*. The term originated as a corruption in common use in Coburg, and had been suggested by Leopold von Buch in a letter to Merian.

The rocks of Wurtemberg were described in 1826 by Alberti,¹ primarily with a view to the investigation of their minerals, but the work proved to have a high geological value. It provided an accurate account of the *Bunter Muschelkalk* and *Keuper* in that area. In 1831 Merian published his description of the same formations in the southern part of the Black Forest. Still more detailed was the excellent description of the *Vosges* mountains and the adjacent portions of France with which Élie de Beaumont commenced his geological career.

The eminent Frenchman divided the *Sandstone* series in the *Vosges* into three distinct groups:—1, The Lower Red

¹ Friedrich August von Alberti, born in 1795 in Stuttgart, studied mining and finance in his native town, began his official career in 1815 at the saltworks at Sulz, and in 1820 was appointed Inspector of Saltworks at Friedrichshall. He bored rock-salt at Schweningen, and was made a Councillor of Mines in 1836, and from 1852 to 1870 manager of the Friedrichshall Saltworks, where he successfully entered a new shaft. He died in 1878 at Heilbron.