

lower, are of great hardness, and have alike resisted the action of the waters.

When on the top of a hill, whose summit is flat, and of a pretty large extent, we meet with hard stone directly under the stratum of vegetable earth, we must remark, that what appears to be the summit, is not so in fact, but only the continuation of some higher hill, whose upper strata are soft stone and the lower hard; and it is the prolongation of these last strata that we meet with again at the top of the first hill.

On the summit of mountains which are not surmounted by any considerable height it is generally only soft stone, and we must dig very deep to meet with hard. Banks of marble are never found but between these beds of hard stone, which are diversely coloured by the metallic earths which the rain introduces into the strata by filtration, and possibly in every country where there is stone, marble would be found if dug for to a sufficient depth; *Quoto enim loco non suum marmor invenitur?* says Pliny. In fact it is a much more common stone than it is thought to be, and differs from other stones only by the fineness of its grain, which renders it more compact and susceptible of a brilliant polish;