

CORAL RAG and PISOLITE.

SOIL.—*Colour*, Dark brown.

Consistence, Loose when dry ; rather tenacious or kneadable when wet ; thickly strewn with small stones, roundish or irregularly shaped, which in roads wear white.

SUBSOIL.—Moist Clay and a rough irregular Limestone.

EXCAVATIONS, Shallow, on outcrop of the rock ; stone whitish ; where mixed with Clay, hold water ; where sandy, dry.

STRATUM, Lightish blue in deep pits ; where the Stratum is entire, beneath its incumbent Clay hard and solid, except the cavities occasioned by stems of Madrepores.

The Pisolite part of the rock beneath has a dryer, stony, and less adhesive soil, of the sort usually called Stonebrash. The stone in some of its beds is white, and composed of unequal sized ova. Loose ova may be seen at the sides of banks and other bare places.

WATER, flows in abundance from this rock, and the Sand and Sandstone, which is the bottom of the Stratum.

My Geological Table of organized Fossils shows that this rock and the Sands have been represented on my map by the same colour ; but now, by the better arrangement of my fossils in the British Museum, and my subsequent observations, these Strata are more distinctly divided.

The Coral Rag consists chiefly of lumps of coralline Limestone, which in the quarry are very rough, irregular, and dirty ; but where roads cross the outcrop, or where this stone is used as a road material, it wears to a smooth surface, which is whiter and harder than any other stone in the vicinity.

The Pisolite Freestone beneath is softer. In some parts it being an Oolite of fine grain, is used in building, and in specimens without organized Fossils, is scarcely to be distinguished from Portland Stone.

Coral Rag and Pisolite, with the Sand and Sandstone beneath, make a surface of dry land, which, within a generally moist surface of Clay land, is very desirable for tillage, and is commonly thus appropriated.

Among the stones turned up by the plough, most of its organized Fossils may be found, but the quarries generally produce sharper and better specimens.

The greatest breadth of surface formed by the outcrop of this Stratum is in Wiltshire, Berkshire, and Oxfordshire : its course north-eastward becomes obscure, or is covered with alluvial matter before it reaches Buckinghamshire.

From Steeple Ashton, Wiltshire, the south-western course is indistinct, or the stone is deeply covered in the high hills of Sand, and forms part of their altitude ; as in this direction it re-appears in the low part of Longleat park ; and beyond the high Sand hills of Stourton, the