

cliff on the east of Dover is blasted, squared, and used for the purposes of the harbour, and in the construction of a dock, especially such parts of it as are mostly under water.

The abbey of Hurley in Berkshire, and its parish church, anciently a chapel, are said to be constructed of chalk, and the remains of these are still as fresh and sound as if they had been the work of the last century. The mullions and arches of St. Catharine's chapel near Guildford, are of chalk that contain flints. (G. Notes.) The abbey at St. Omar's, ruined during the revolution, is entirely constructed with chalk, and retains all its beautiful gothic ornaments in great perfection. (C.)

Chalk occasionally contains subordinate beds of other substances; as of soft and indurated chalk-marle, which occur near Dover, and of fuller's earth, (G. Notes), which is found in the north of England, at Claxby in Lincolnshire, and in Sussex. Mr. Webster has noticed thin parting seams of clay between the strata of chalk in some of the pits in the Isle of Wight.

The upper chalk appears in most places in England, wherever occasional openings have been made in the very large tract occupied by it, notwithstanding the extensive ruin which its beds must have suffered at remote periods, of which we find manifest proofs in the valleys by which the chalk is intersected, and especially in the immense deposits of rounded flint gravel in the eastern and south-eastern parts of England.

The inferior beds\* may be traced along the lower regions of the escarpment presented by the hills of this formation, in the cliffs on the coast near the junction with the older formations, and in a few other places where exposed by denudation; but such beds must be considered rather as anomalies of local and partial occurrence, than as belonging to the general character of the formation.

This formation, being composed throughout of a series of homogeneous beds of a tender earthy limestone, does not admit of those subdivisions which many others require.

The occurrence, however, of those numerous layers of nodular flints which alternate through the greater part of its mass, constitutes one of its most remarkable and essential features; being constantly present in all the upper beds of the formation, which may thus be in most instances readily distinguished from the lower in which the flints are rare, and most usually entirely wanting; hence the well known division into the *upper* and *lower chalk*.

\* The ensuing part of this article is by the Rev. W. D. Conybeare, F.R.S.