

tinguishable from those of other formations. The character of yellowish white calcareous freestone, generally mixed with a small quantity of siliceous sand, being common to all their varieties, and nearly all of them becoming occasionally oolitic.

The varieties to be observed in the Upper series, or that of Aylesbury and Portland, are, a fine grained white oolite, a loose granular limestone of earthy aspect and of various shades of yellowish grey; and more rarely a compact cretaceous limestone having a conchoidal fracture. In Wiltshire and Dorsetshire, many of the beds contain layers of chert alternating with them like the flints in the chalk formation; the lower beds are very sandy, and often very abundant in green particles resembling those of the green sand. Nodular concretions of calcareo-siliceous grit occur in the sandy beds in Oxfordshire. (C.)

The more oolitic varieties (principally quarried in the Isles of Purbeck and Portland) afford the great part of the stone used for architectural purposes in the vicinity of London.

Mr. Webster gives the following account of the Portland quarries. The uppermost beds of the isle of Portland consist of an oolitic rock, and they are numerous. That which appears on the summit, and is called the Cap, is of a yellowish colour, and porcellanous character; it is only burnt for lime. The next bed is worked for sale, being the best building stone. Those below this bed contain numerous casts of shells that injure the stone, which is only used for coarser purposes; and with these beds alternate others consisting of chert. (W. p. 197.)*

* A more detailed account of the several quarries in the Isle of Portland may be seen in the Monthly Magazine for Jan. 1813, p. 481, whence the two following Sections are copied.

Section of Wayeroft and other Quarries on the East side of Portland.

	feet.
1. Vegetable mould, less than	1
2. <i>Stone brash</i> , a cream-coloured limestone	3
3. Parting of ditto and black-blue clay.....	1
4. <i>Cap</i> , a cream-coloured stone in three layers, with partings of clay, and so hard as to turn the steel points of chisels and pick-axes.....	10
5. The <i>White bed</i> , or the highest layer of marketable stone: two feet off the top of this stratum is egg-shaped.....	5
Parting, abounding with grey flint, of no use....	2
6. The <i>Middle bed</i> of marketable stone, containing few marine impressions, and occasionally either in one or two beds....	5
Parting stone, containing many shells, of no value	2
7. The third bed with few or no shells; this is the best stone, and it varies in thickness in the several quarries from.....	7 to 14