

Woodstock, Oxfordshire, so remarkable (as we shall hereafter have occasion to observe) for the singular variety of its organic remains, among which the spoils of birds, land animals, and amphibia, occur mingled with vegetables and sea shells, belongs to the same part of the series with the forest marble. The assemblage of beds here worked, consists of two fissile beds of a buff coloured or grey oolitic limestone called *pendle*, each about two feet thick, separated by a bed of loose calcareo-siliceous sandstone called *race*, about the same thickness. Concretions are frequent in the latter (G. Notes), and are called *whim-stones* or *potlids*; they are partially oolitic, sometimes blue in the centre, and vary from six inches to two feet in diameter: their form is generally that of a flattened sphere; they do not break concentrically, but into parallel planes; and they often contain shells. The *pendle*, after being quarried, is suffered to lie exposed to the action of a winter's frost,\* and the blocks being then struck on their edge with a mallet, freely separate into slates sufficiently thin to afford a light material for roofing. The quarries are principally situated in the valley immediately on the south of Stonesfield village, which branches off eastwards from that of the Evenlode. The mode of working is by driving horizontal galleries about six feet high into the side of the hill, and then extracting the two strata of *pendle* laterally, piling up the refuse masses of the intermediate bed of *race*, so as to support the roof: deep perpendicular shafts communicate with these galleries. These workings have been carried on from remote times to a considerable extent, so that both sides of the valley are completely honey-combed by them. Beautifully plumose stalactites are often found in the fissures of the rock, and are called by the workmen, from an obvious though coarse analogy, *tallow*.

Beds of calcareous slate also occur in the oolites of this system at Easton and Collyweston in Northamptonshire, a few miles south of Stamford, and, it seems probable, belong to the same part of the series with those above described; we have however no particular description of these quarries. The slate of Stonesfield is much more calcareous than that of Collyweston, which is stated by Bishop Watson (Chem. Ess. vol. iv.

\* At Stonesfield, the *pendle* is raised in blocks about a foot thick, and only between Michaelmas and January. As soon as they are raised, the blocks are wetted, and covered with earth, until there is a prospect of frost, when they are uncovered; but if the frost goes, are immediately covered again, or they would not split. The action of frost opens the joints of the slates sufficiently for a blow with a mallet to complete the operation. The price of slates at the pit is about 40s. per 1000 of the ordinary size, but they have been obtained so large as 21 feet square. (G. Notes.)