

of a slaty texture. Above all, this extensive deposit is remarkable for containing masses or beds of gypsum; and the great rock-salt formation of England occurs within it, or is subordinate to it; in some places the strata of coal dip beneath it.

Although it would perhaps be generalising too hastily to assert that these beds invariably follow in a constant order, yet it may be safely stated as a general truth, that the red marle containing gypsum usually occupies the higher, the sandstone the central, and the conglomerate the lower portions of this deposit; but the most remarkable of the subordinate beds connected with this formation are those of amygdaloidal trap, which occur in it in Devonshire: as these are confined to that county, they will be described in treating of its local characters in that quarter. (C.)

The general composition of these beds is argillaceous, argillo-siliceous, with a variable proportion of calcareous matter, sometimes effervescing weakly with acids, sometimes not at all. (C.)

The marle and sandstone are often red, but vary in their hue from chocolate to salmon colour; they are not unfrequently variegated, exhibiting streaks of light blue or verdigris, buff, or cream colour (G. Notes); this forms so prominent a character, that Werner denominated the formation "bunter sandstein," variegated sandstone. (C.)

At Westbury on the Severn in Gloucestershire, it is for the most part greyish blue and chocolate red, alternating at intervals of about a foot, but sometimes crossing each other, and sometimes intermingled. (G. Notes.)

The soil of Marlborough in Devonshire is so red that the butchers at Dodbrooke market know the sheep by the colour of the fleece that come from thence. (Polwhele, G. Notes.)

From the prevalence of this striking colour, the soil of the formation has given rise to many local names; as in Exeter to Rougemont castle, now a prison; in Somersetshire to Radford, Red hill, and Redcliff; in Gloucestershire to Redbrook; in Worcestershire on the borders of Glamorganshire to Red marly; in Warwickshire to Radford; in Nottinghamshire to Retford; Radford, Ratcliffe and to Redhill at the junction of the Trent and Toar; in Derbyshire to Retford; and in Yorkshire, to Rotherham, Red mire, Red ho, and Red bar rocks, which appear on the sea coast between Gisborough and Hartlepool. (T. 155.)

The red marle is remarkable for its fissures, which are transverse to the strata, and separating the rock into rhombic forms. A striking example of this may be seen at the new cut, Bristol, near Bridgnorth in Shropshire, at Kidderminster in Worcester-