

rytes occur in this formation, and perhaps also yellow and other ores of copper, grey oxide of cobalt, and black oxide of manganese: the reason for speaking doubtfully on these latter articles will appear in the following statements. (C.)

At Séacome Ferry on the shores of the Mersey opposite to Liverpool, and for several miles along the coast, magnetic iron-sand, mixed with much iserine, ooses out of a cohering sand lying below a deep bank of clay, and which is considered as entering largely into the geological composition of that part of Cheshire. (G. T. vol. 4. p. 447.)

(c) *Organic remains.* None whatever have yet been found in any of the rocks connected with this formation, unless the magnesian limestone (which contains some marine animals) be considered as included in it.\*

(d) *Range and extent.* The eastern or superior limit of this formation (being its junction with the lias) has already been traced through the island as forming the inferior limit of the latter rock, but we no longer find in this, as in the preceding formations, the western or inferior limit describing a line nearly parallel to the former, and thus together with it including a band or zone of nearly uniform breadth. The reason of this circumstance is, that the Red Marle, and its associated magnesian limestone, form the last of the nearly horizontal and conformable strata occupying the eastern and southern counties; and the strata of the succeeding formations are unconformably placed with regard to these, rising from beneath them at various

only two works of five large pans of wrought iron. The duty produced from them amounts annually to near £5000; from the whole district, including the works at Lawton and a small one at Droitwich, from £18,000, to £20,000.

Salt was an object of taxation at a very early period in this country. Ancus Martius, 640 years before our era, 'Salinarum vectigal instituit.' This tribute was continued on the Britons when our isle was possessed by the Romans, who worked the Droitwich mines, and who made salt a part of the pay of their soldiers' *salarium* or salary. Hence the custom at the Eton montem of asking for salt.

The ancient mode of making salt, and which even now I believe is practised in Germany, was to fling the brine on burning wood, by which means the water was evaporated, and the salt was left adhering to the ashes.

The Saxons, according to their ideas of liberty, divided the salina between the king, the nobles, and the freemen. Of the salt works at Nantwich, eight were the joint property of the king and Earl Edwin. The king had two-thirds of the profits, the earl one-third: Edwin had also a work near his manor of Aghton, which yielded sufficient salt for the consumption of his household. If the salt of this work was sold, the king was to have a tax of two pence upon it, and the earl one penny.

\* There is a very remarkable variety of chert containing shells overlying the calcareo-magnesian conglomerates of the Mendip hills (Somersets.) in some places, but this should most probably be included under the deposit which these represent—the magnesian limestone formation.