

versely to the strata. The principal demand for the pure white gypsum, or that slightly streaked with red, is by the potters in Staffordshire, who form their molds of the plaster of Paris which it yields; but some particular blocks are selected for the use of the turner, and the maker of alabaster ornaments. When mixed with blue or green earth, it is called flooring-stone; that which is found in very thin beds, is used for the building of walls and other common purposes. (F. 148, & seq.)

Advancing from Derbyshire into *Staffordshire*, we still find the same formation occupying the low district between the vallies of the rivers Dove and Trent: near the confluence of these streams, gypsum is dug in many places, and salt springs abound near the Trent, particularly at Weston near Stafford, where salt works have been established. (C.)

Near the head of the western branches of the Trent, the great central plain of the red marle unites with that occupying nearly the whole of *Cheshire*, the southern part of *Lancashire*, and the northern part of *Shropshire*, and watered by the Dee, the Weaver, and the Mersey. The vallies of these three rivers are occupied by the red marle formation, and the central valley, that of the Weaver, presents throughout its course, abundance of salt-springs containing above twenty-five per cent. of salt; gypsum is also plentiful. At Northwich in this vale, an extensive deposit of solid rock salt has also been found, consisting of two beds, together not less than sixty feet in thickness. These beds are supposed to form large insulated masses of this mineral, extending in length about a mile and a half, and in breadth about 1300 yards. There are other deposits of this mineral in the same vallies, but of less importance than this. (C. from Dr. Holland's paper in G. T. vol. 1.) The section presented by the workings at Northwich is as follows.

*Section of the Strata sunk through to the second Bed of Rock Salt, at Witton near Northwich. (G. T. V. 1, p. 62.)*

|   | feet. | inch. |
|---|-------|-------|
| 1. Calcareous marl . . . . .  | 15    | —     |
| 2. Indurated Red Clay . . . . .   | 4     | 6     |
| 3. Indurated blue Clay with sand . . . . .                                      | 7     | —     |
| 4. Argillaceous marl . . . . .  | 1     | —     |
| 5. Indurated blue Clay . . . . .  | 1     | —     |
| 6. Red Clay, with sulphate of lime irregularly intersecting it . . . . .        | 4     | —     |
| 7. Indurated brown Clay, with grains of sulphate of lime interspersed . . . . . | 4     | —     |