

Ormuz*; and that the sand of the great desert of Persia is of a brick red colour; and that salt abounds throughout that desert; there can be very little doubt in the mind of a geologist that the rock marle formation abounds in that part of the world. The same formation probably abounds also about the streams of the Indus and the Ganges, after they have quitted the mountains; for it is observed by Major Rennell, that in the tract between the Indus and the Chelum are wonderfully productive salt mines, affording masses of salt hard enough to be formed into vessels, &c." †

Does not the occurrence of a salt lake in the centre of Asia Minor lead us likewise to expect this formation in that quarter? We know that rock salt is used in Caramania as a building stone, in consequence of its hardness and the dryness of the air. (Chardin.) Similar indications are said to exist in Thibet and Tartary.

With respect to Africa, we may again quote Dr. Kidd. "I need not insist on the existence of rock salt in Africa; and though we have little satisfactory evidence of the formation to which it belongs, yet as syenitic rocks occur in Upper Egypt, and magnesian limestone in Lower Egypt, and Vitruvius mentions a spring of tar near Carthage§; we have good geological reasons for expecting that in those parts of Africa the rock marle may be found."

Much of the sandstone of southern Africa appears to belong to this formation.

Rock salt is said to exist in more than one place in New Holland.

In North America these formations appear, from the travels of Messrs. Lewis and Clarke, to be very abundant in the vast plain of the Mississippi, between the Alleghany mountains and the great range of stony mountains bordering the opposite sides of the northern half of this continent.‡

* Kinneir, p. 13. and Voyage of Nearchus, p. 322.

† Rennell's Hindostan, p. 69.

§ Vitruvius, lib. viii. cap. 3.

‡ In America the localities of this mineral have been but little explored. It appears, however, to exist in many places under one or both of its usual forms. In Peru are numerous mines, situated at a very great elevation above the sea; some are near Potosi. The salt is very hard, and usually of a violet colour.—It has also been found in several parts of Chili, &c.

In California it is found in very solid masses; and in St. Domingo, near lake Xaraguay, it exists in a mountain.

In the United States, salt springs are numerous in several districts. These springs sometimes flow naturally, but are more frequently formed by sinking wells in those places, where this salt is known to exist, as in certain marshes, and in *salt licks*, so called, having formerly been the resort of wild animals to *lick* the clay, impregnated with this muriate. These