

or New Red Sandstone, 2, the Jurassic series, and 3, the Cretaceous or chalk series.

1. *Triassic Series or New Red Sandstone.*

In Continental Europe the Triassic System is divided into three distinct groups, and hence its name. The lowest is the *Bunter Sandstein*, or *Gres Bigarre*; both terms meaning variegated sandstone. The colors are white, red, blue, and green. The composition of the rock is chiefly silicious and argillaceous, with occasional beds of gypsum, and rock salt. The second group is the *Muschelkalk*, a gray compact limestone, occasionally dolomitic. This member is wanting both in Great Britain and in this country; and hence there is great difficulty in distinguishing between the upper and lower divisions. The highest division is the *Variegated Marl*, or the *Keuper*. It consists of indurated clays of different colors, chiefly red, alternating with gray sandstone and yellowish magnesian limestone. Beds of gypsum and rock salt are common.

In this country this system is probably represented in a part of the Connecticut River sandstone.

In the Western parts of the United States, in the vicinity of the Rocky Mountains, there are deposits referable, it is said, to this series.

2. *The Jurassic Series.*

The Jurassic series, so called from its occurrence among the Jura mountains in Switzerland, embraces the Lias, the Oolite, and the Wealden formations of England.

Lias.—Lias is a rock usually of a bluish color like common clay; and it is indeed highly argillaceous, but at the same time generally calcareous. Bands of true argillaceous limestone do, indeed, occur in it, as well as of calcareous sand. It is widely diffused; is very marked in its characters, and contains peculiar and very interesting organic remains.

Oolite.—In many of the rocks of this series small calcareous globules are imbedded, which resemble the roe of a fish, and hence such a rock is called *roestone* or *Oolite*. But this structure extends through only a small part of this formation, and it occurs also in other rocks.

The Oolite series consist of interstratified layers of clay, sandstone, marl, and limestone. The Oolite proper, is divided into three