

sited by the current in the pools and gentler reaches of the stream below. Even the continual tread of human feet in a crowded thoroughfare soon wears down the trap or sandstone pavement, and converts the solid stone into impalpable mud. Further, the colour of the mud or clay would correspond, as in the thoroughfare or public road, with the colour of the rocks or stones which had been grooved down to form it; and there would occasionally mingle in the mass thus originated, rounded fragments of shells and pebbles scratched in the line of their longer axis.

Now, in the boulder-clay we find all these peculiarities remarkably exemplified. It contains, as has been shown, the oblong stones scratched longitudinally; we find it thickly charged in various parts of Scotland, though not in our own immediate neighbourhood, with worn and rounded fragments of broken shells; and we see it almost invariably borrowing its colour from the rocks on which it rests,—a consequence, apparently, of its being the dressings of these rocks. There is a peculiar kind of clay which forms on the surface of a hearthstone or piece of pavement, under the hands of a mason's labourer engaged in rubbing it smooth with water and a polisher of gritty sandstone. This clay varies in quality and colour with the character of the stone operated upon. A flag of Arbroath pavement yields a bluish-coloured clay; a flag of the Old Red of Ross or Forfarshire, a reddish coloured clay; a flag of Sutherlandshire Oolite, or of the Upper Old Red of Moray or of Fife, a pale yellowish clay. The polishing process is a process which produces clay out of stones as various in tint as the colouring of the various stones which yield it; and in almost every instance does the clay thus formed resemble some known variety of the boulder-clay. The boulder-clay, in the great majority of cases, is, both in colour and quality, just such a clay as might be produced by this recipe of the mason's labourer from the rocks on which it rests. The red sandstone rocks