

often called *brownstone*. The material of many of the "brownstone fronts" of New York and other eastern cities is mostly from this formation. The Potomac conglomerate marble is used as an ornamental stone, and columns of it stand in the Capitol at Washington.

## 2. The Triassic and Jurassic of the Western Interior and Pacific Border Regions.

The Triassic and Jurassic formations of the Western Interior and of the Pacific border have a wide distribution, and, to some extent, distinguishable limits. The former consist almost everywhere, in the Interior, of reddish sandstones and marlytes, and are often called "Red Beds." They frequently contain gypsum and sometimes salt. Upon the Pacific border the rocks of this period are chiefly slates, with occasional sandstones, and much limestone.

The Jurassic beds are usually of lighter shades of color, and are in most regions partly or chiefly calcareous, and the limestone is often cherty. A large part of the Triassic formation is without fossils, excepting occasional traces of plants; but the Jurassic is often fossiliferous, though seldom prolific in species.

### *Triassic.*

Over the Continental Interior, the Triassic formation is exposed to view in northern Texas, adjoining Indian Territory and western Kansas. The beds probably underlie the Cretaceous beds farther northward, but no outcrops occur in that direction except in mountainous regions to the west and northwest. They exist about the Black Hills of Dakota, and cover large areas along the Summit Region of the Rocky Mountains in New Mexico, Colorado, and Utah, east of the western limit of the Wasatch Range, and also in Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho. In British America, east of the Archæan protaxis, they have been observed on Peace and Pine rivers, beyond  $55^{\circ}$  N. and between  $122^{\circ}$  and  $125\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  W.; and also on Liard River, near  $59^{\circ}$  N. Beds in southeastern Idaho, near Soda Springs, have been referred to the Lower Trias (Mojsisovics, Hyatt); but the absence or non-discovery of fossils leaves the age of the beds of the Rocky Mountains and Interior Continental regions generally undetermined.

West of the meridian of the Wasatch Mountains, and of the Rocky Mountain protaxis in British America, over the Great Basin plateau, and its continuation in the plateau region of British Columbia, the Trias appears to have a wide range. In the United States it is confined to the west side of the plateau or Great Basin beyond  $117\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  W., on the 40th parallel. In the west Humboldt region, according to King, 15,000 feet of beds, partly Middle Trias, underlie 4,000 feet or more of Jurassic beds. In the plateau region of British Columbia, Triassic areas occur on Nicola Lake ( $50^{\circ}$  N.,  $120\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  W.) and Stikine River ( $57^{\circ}$  N.,  $137\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  W.).

Farther west, in the Sierra belt, beds of the Upper Triassic occur near the summit of the Sierra Nevada in Plumas County, Cal., as first identified