

in the basin of the Baltic some of the limestones have a greater continuity. In North America, on the other hand, the Trenton limestones in the Lower, and the Niagara limestone in the Upper Silurian division are among the most persistent formations of the eastern United States and Canada, while in the Western Territories vast masses of Silurian limestone constitute nearly the whole of the system. Easily recognizable bands in many Silurian tracts, especially in the northwest of Europe, are certain dark anthracitic shales or schists, which, though sometimes only a few feet thick, can be followed for many leagues. As they usually contain much decomposing iron-disulphide, which produces an efflorescence of alum, they are known in Scandinavia as the alumslates. In Scotland, they are the chief repositories of the Silurian graptolites. Their black, coal-like aspect has led to much fruitless mining in them for coal. In the northern part of the State of New York, a series of beds of red marl with salt and gypsum occurs in the Upper Silurian series. In the Salt Range of the Punjab the group of saliferous strata occurs which has been already alluded to in the account of the Cambrian rocks. These salt-bearing deposits are the oldest yet discovered. In Styria and Bohemia, important beds of oolitic hæmatite and siderite are interstratified with the ordinary graywackes and shales. Occasionally sheets of various eruptive rocks (felsites, diabases, diorites, etc.) occur contemporaneously imbedded in the Silurian rocks (Wales, Lake District, S. Scotland, S.E. Ireland, etc.), and, with their associated tuffs, represent the volcanic ejections of the time.

As a rule, Silurian rocks have suffered from subsequent geological revolutions, so that they now appear inclined, folded, contorted, broken, and cleaved, sometimes even