

This is largely used in Baltimore, and also in Washington, both for private and public buildings, and most of it consists of a strong and durable stone. The colossal statue on the Washington monument in Baltimore, consists of marble of this kind from near Texas.

There is also in that region some excellent marble in the limestones, whose strata have more or less dip, or inclination from the horizon; but there are intercalations of other layers of less purity and beauty, which must be removed, and the dip of the strata soon brings the stone down to the *water level*, which considerably increases the cost of quarrying the stone from the necessity of pumping out the water.

I need not give a minute description of this stone, because there are few or none of my readers but what have often seen it. It is a beautiful stone for all situations wherein a white marble is required.

The second consists of limestone more or less colored, generally of some shade of gray or bluish gray. Some varieties are liable to be in part stained yellow, owing to the oxydation of the minute grains of iron pyrites disseminated through them. I have noticed this defect also in some of the white marble, and which, of course, impairs its beauty. These kinds may be avoided by a careful inspection, by which the grains of pyrites may be seen.

The third variety is that called *alum limestone*, which has already been noticed in chapter VIII, as the material from which the nearly pure lime from Texas is produced. It came into use as a marble a few years since, and was applied to the construction of the patent office and the monument in Washington. It is very white, and whilst the large crystalline grains are supposed to improve its appearance, they increase the cost of dressing it. They require the use of large files in dressing up the edges and corners of the stone, in order to prevent the grains from being knocked out in chiseling near the edges. Some of these alum marbles have been proven by experiments at Washington to be very strong; but as others are prone to disintegrate, great care should be taken in selecting them.

The Northern Central road passes through this formation, and can afford facilities for cheap transportation both North and South.

I am not aware of the existence of good marble in the limestones of this range in Harford and Howard counties.

The next range of limestone useful as marble, are on the western flank of Parr's ridge, extending southwestward from a little northwest of Manchester, in Carroll county, passing near and west of Westminster, and extending to the vicinity of New Market in Frederick county. They are usually stratified and consist of very small crystalline grains, and are generally white or of some light shade of blue. We find it, however, towards the southern limits of this range more variegated, with shades of red less pure, and the stratification more disturbed.

The different layers of this vary considerably, and even in the same quarry there are layers of both pure white and light blue, and sometimes variegated with light and dark shades of red. They take a fine polish, and are free from the grains or masses of quartz and other minerals which sometimes exist in the older limestones we have already noticed.

The cost of transportation has hitherto prevented these marbles from being transported to distant markets and they have, therefore, but a local use. The Western Maryland Railroad, it is hoped, will soon be extended to this fine region and enable those owning this material (equally valuable for marble or lime) to extend its uses.

The quarries yet opened have penetrated but a small depth; but we may expect that the demand for stone and lime, which cheap transportation upon the railroad must produce, will soon increase their depth. The effect of this will be to bring to light the marble, less acted upon by the weather, at much less cost than when large quantities of stone have to be quarried and thrown aside in order to get *unaltered* blocks of marble of large size.

Another important lime-stone, ranges in Frederick county from near Woodsboro' to the Potomac, being the most eastern range of that numbered (10) in