With the exception of the southeastern edge, (which may be included within the metalliferous range or the borders of No. 5,) this formation is singularly destitute of minerals other than the rock itself, until we cross the summit at Parr's ridge. In fact the characters of this formation westward of this summit differs so much from that on the eastern side, that it is quite probable further explorations will shew the propriety of making a division in the classification.

The metamorphic limestones between Parr's ridge and the western limit of No. 6, differ materially from those in No. 5. The latter, with the exception of the "alum limestone," (which occupies small areas in Baltimore county,) is generally much mixed up with small grains of quartz, mica, talc, and other minerals. The former, however, is remarkable for its purity, and has a fine grain, and in some of the quarries there are ledges much resembling statuary marble.

It seems, however, that those in the same range, between Liberty and the railroad near New Market, have been more fully metamorphosed and are less pure.

These limestones do not constitute continuous belts, but interrupted ledges, varying in length from a few hundred yards to several miles, and constitute an important element in the agriculture of that region.

The rocks so far enumerated contain no remains of animal and vegetable life. Those which follow contain such remains, and are therefore supposed to have been formed since organic life began on our globe.

FORMATION No. 8.

(*Primal of Pennsylvania survey.*) *Pottsdam sandstone of New York.*

This division includes—

1. A hard sandstone made up of grains of quartz, with occasionally grains of felspar and kaolin. The silicious cement seems to have completely filled up the interstices between the grains, so as to give a firm compact structure to the rock. Portions of this rock seem to have been subjected to such changes as to render it doubtful whether it should not be considered a granular quartz, and be classed among the metamorpic rocks. Vegetable life seems to have commenced at the period of the formation of this rock, because it contains fossilized stems of plants.

2. A slate varying in color from gray to brownish and greenish. It is ranked as an argillite, but portions of it assume a marked talcose appearance, especially in the Catoctin Mountain, and in parts of Middletown valley, where it has been much disturbed and altered by proximity to intrusive