

PART II.
GRANITIC ROCKS.

CHAPTER I.

GRANITE.

Granit (*Germ.*) Granite (*Fr.*) Granito (*Ital.*) Sp. gr. 2.6–2.9.

THE origin of the name 'granite' is involved in obscurity. It is stated by Scipio Breislack to have been used by Cæsalpinus as far back as the year 1596, and was found by Emmerling in a work by Pitton de Tournefort, written in 1698;¹ and while it was subsequently employed to designate rocks of a coarsely granular character, it is probable that Werner and Hutton gave more precision to its use. On the other hand, Chateau traces the name to the Italian 'granito,' from the grains being of different colours.² But whatever its derivation, the name is now understood amongst petrologists to designate a rock of a crystalline-granular texture—of igneous or metamorphic origin—and composed of, at least, three constituents, quartz, felspar, and mica.

¹ Zirkel, Petrographie, i. 475.

² Technologie du Bâtiment.