

Geognostic Situation.

It occurs in primitive and transition mountains.

Geographic Situation.

Europe.—Beds of it, containing tremolite, occur in the island of Iona. In the mountain-group of St Gothard, it occurs in beds, often of great thickness, containing imbedded crystals of tremolite, grains of quartz, and scales of mica and talc. In the Apennines, it occurs in imbedded portions, in a dark ash-grey small splintery limestone: in Carinthia, it forms whole ranges of mountains: in Bareuth, it occurs in beds along with granular foliated limestone: at Sala in Sweden, it is mixed with mica, talc, and quartz: on the mountain of Maladetta in Spain: a beautiful white variety, used by ancient sculptors, is found in the isle of Tenedos: in veins, traversing granite, in the valley of Sesia in Italy; and it is found loose on Monte Somma.

America.—Province of New-York, with tremolite*.

Asia.—Bengal †, with imbedded tremolite; also in Siberia.

Uses.

It appears to have been used by ancient sculptors in their finest works.

Observations.

1. It is named Dolomite, in honour of the celebrated French geologist Dolomieu.

2. The only mineral with which it is likely to be confounded, is granular foliated limestone; but a simple chemical test at once distinguishes them:—a drop of mineral acid causes a violent effervescence, when poured on granular

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† Sir John Murray.