

The foliated structure is distinguished from that properly called laminar, by an undefined, or else a comparatively unlimited divisibility; and the examples of it are found in the argillaceous schists, in the micaceous schists, in gneiss, and in others of the analogous primary rocks. It is conveniently divided into the foliated strictly speaking, and into the schistose.

In the former, which occurs in the primary rocks that contain mica, the divisibility is the result of the position of the mineral; and that position, it is elsewhere shown, may be the consequence, either of deposition or of crystalline polarity. It is unnecessary to dwell on the varieties of aspect which this structure presents; but these will be found to consist, as in gneiss, in its irregularity and imperfection; or, as in the finest and flattest chlorite schists, in its extreme tenuity and flatness. The analogous structures which occur in the secondary calcareous or arenaceous strata have evidently resulted from the mode of mechanical deposition by which these have been produced; and, very generally, from the conspicuous interposition of very slender portions of clay or of mica. These belong properly to stratification.

The schistose structure is one of those which may truly be called concretionary; as it occurs in a homogeneous rock, and is independent of stratification. It is almost limited to the argillaceous schists; yet not necessarily to those which are homogeneous, as the mixture of sand, gravel, or fragments, does not prevent its existing in the simpler base by which these are united. A similar structure occurs in the sandstone of Sky, and it will probably hereafter be found in other instances where it has been little expected; in which case even the secondary strata may often possess a truly