

The reasons for ranking this sandstone in the primary class are now apparent, notwithstanding its resemblance to those of the secondary division; and, that it is not even the latest of the primary strata, is evident from the preceding history of its connexions. No objections need arise with respect to the application of the term primary, to a rock composed of re-united fragments, since the same character occurs in quartz rock, and also in micaceous schist; as there are also striking analogies between the former series and the present, in many important particulars. The obvious differences, indeed, frequently consist in little else than colour; felspar being equally present in some kinds of quartz rock, though of a paler hue than in this sandstone; while both have been generated from gneiss and granite, in these cases, as, in others, from those, and from other strata of a former series, as noticed in the chapter on the Revolutions of the Earth.

I may conclude these remarks by observing, that they who do not choose to admit a new distinction, may consider this as a modification of quartz rock. But the magnitude and distinctness of the masses, with their marked appearance and separation from the other forms of this substance, seem to give it a claim to a place somewhat more important than would arise from mere distinction of colour; though I willingly leave it to the judgment of others. If it is considered as unwarrantably introduced into the antient catalogue, I cannot quote any confirmation of its existence elsewhere, from the writings of foreign authors. But as M. Cordier has recently professed to me his belief in a red sandstone, followed by a schist, and anterior to that "old red sandstone" which he takes care to distinguish from the red marl, it is likely that the rock which I have now described does actually exist on the continent of Europe.