

“Hungary and Poland afford the most numerous and extensive repositories of rock-salt in Europe. The salt mines of Wieliczka near Cracovia have been long celebrated and frequently described; they are worked at the depth of 750 feet. The rock-salt is covered by alternate beds of marl and conglomerate; blocks of salt occur also in the marl. The beds of rock-salt are inclined at an angle of 40 degrees. It is remarkable, that in these mines of rock-salt, there are springs of fresh as well as of salt water. At Paraid in Transylvania, there is a valley the bottom and sides of which are pure rock-salt. The mine of Eperies is about 990 feet deep. Water is sometimes enclosed in the blocks of rock-salt.”—*Brongniart, Minéralogie.*

There is an extensive formation of rock-salt, stretching on each side of the Carpathian Mountains for six hundred miles, from Wieliczka in Poland towards the north, to Rimnie in Moldavia on the south. It has indeed been observed, that rock-salt and brine springs most generally occur near the feet of extensive mountain ranges, which adds probability to the opinion, that these ranges were once the boundaries of extensive salt lakes.

In the lofty deserts of Caramania in Asia, according to Chardin, rock-salt is so abundant, and the atmosphere so dry, that the inhabitants use it as stone, for building their houses. This mineral is also found on the whole elevated table-land of Great Tartary, Thibet, and Indostan. Extensive plains in Persia are covered with a saline efflorescence; and according to the account of travellers, the island of Ormus, in the Persian Gulf, is one large mass of rock-salt.

In the elevated mountains of Peru, rock-salt is said to occur at the height of 9000 feet above the level of the sea. In North America there are various salt springs called Licks, because the herds of wild cattle formerly repaired to them, to lick the soil impregnated with salt. Near to these places, at a small depth below the surface, the immense bones of the great Mastodon are frequently found. According to the account of Hornemann, a mass of rock-salt, so vast, that, in one direction, no eye can reach its termination, and whose breadth he computed to be several miles, spreads over the mountains, that, to the north, bound the desert of Lybia. Rock-salt has been found also in New South Wales.

It would exceed the limits intended for the present volume, to enumerate the different places in which this valuable mineral occurs. I propose to note only the more remarkable situations, presenting phenomena that may tend to illustrate the mode of its formation. Among these should not be omitted the salt lakes on the borders of Caffraria, east of the Cape of Good Hope, which contain, at their bottom, thick beds of rock-salt variously coloured.

There is a remarkable formation of salt at Posa, near Burgos, in Castile, placed in an immense crater of an extinct volcano, in which are found pumice-stone and puzzolana. The volcanic mountain of Calogero, near Sciacca, in Sicily, contains, in its beds, a considera-