

chalk, and present no indications of any interruption in the regular series of successive deposits. In an interesting paper, by Professor Sedgwick and R. J. Murchison, Esq. on the relations of the secondary and tertiary strata on the southern flanks of the Tyrolese Alps, published in the *Phil. Mag.* for June, 1829, the tertiary strata are described as forming a vast series of beds resting on scaglia or chalk: the lowest of these beds contain, exclusively, the remains of marine animals, and no interval of repose can be traced between the epochs of the formation of the secondary and tertiary strata. The scaglia occurs in beds nearly vertical: the upper ones contain nodules and layers of flints: their colour is red, and their structure fissile. The lower beds are thicker, and more compact, and pass into a beautiful white saccharoid marble. The scaglia contains in some parts ammonites and belemnites. It cannot, however, be denied, that where the beds are so much broken and contorted as they are on the Tyrolese Alps, and where their mineral characters differ so much from the beds of the chalk formation in England and France, it becomes extremely difficult to ascertain the identity of these secondary depositions in distant countries. In the calcareous formations of the Savoy Alps, I not only discovered the characteristic fossils of the English strata, but observed some of the beds possessing the true mineral characters of the English oolites, and lias; but where these characters are entirely wanting, and where, from the overturning and contortion of the strata, the aid of relative geological position cannot be obtained, the inferences from a few fossil organic remains must be received, with a certain degree of caution.