

lowermost division of the oolitic system. In Germany, the uppermost part of the group consists of shales, and layers of a fine grained, fissile limestone much employed in lithography, and which afford an assemblage of organic remains of surpassing interest. These deposits are found in that prolongation of the chain of the Jura which, after the fall of the Rhine at Schaffhausen, passes into Germany along the borders of the Maine, and near to Cobourg. The quarries are situated on the sides of the valley of the Altmuhl, a tributary of the Danube, which extends by Pappenheim and Aichsted. This valley presents a precipitous escarpment, which is composed of, 1. The uppermost part; calcareous schist, containing in abundance, fishes, crustacea, asteriæ and reptiles, with a few small ammonites and bivalve shells. 2. A magnesian limestone. 3. Limestone of a greyish white, abounding in ammonites; and 4. Brown, or grey sandstone, of a fine grain, which constitutes the base of the hills of that district. The most celebrated quarry of the calcareous schists, is that of Solenhofen, in the valley of Altmuhl, near Pappenheim.* The cream-coloured limestone of this quarry has long been known to contain organic remains of great beauty and interest. Crustacea allied to the lobster, shrimp, cray-fish, &c. are often met with, and many specimens are figured by authors. Knorr's splendid work, "Monumens des

* Oss. Foss. Tom. V.