the masses at a greater depth are greatly more sound, and that — as is common in marbles — what occurs as a flaw within the influence of the percolating rains and penetrating frosts, may exist, removed beyond their reach, as merely a streak or vein. I find it stated by Mr. Carmichael, in an elaborate essay on the Limestone Quarries of Scotland, which received the prize of the Highland Society, that no real marble has ever been found in this country,— no stone, at least, fitted to stand what he terms the three criteria of a true marble, viz., susceptibility of a high polish, chemical composition, and compact homogeneous structure. He states that Sutherland marble leaves three per cent. of residuum when subjected to the testing muriatic acid, whereas Carrara marble leaves none; and that every attempt to polish Scotch marbles has shown them to be "coarse, dissimilar in their texture, full of flaws, and of a dull lustre, even when smoothed to the best advantage." To the flaws of the Assynt marble I have already referred as probably of a surface character; with regard to its chemical composition, I may venture to remark, that a marble may surely be less pure by three per cent. than that of Carrara, and yet be a real marble notwithstanding; and with respect to the polish of which the Sutherland marble is susceptible, it may be enough to state, that though pieces which I attempted polishing for myself are, as may be seen from specimens on the Society's table, dull in their lustre, those beside them, which I submitted to a marble cutter, bear quite as high a gloss as most of the finely variegated marbles of the Continent.

Above this great limestone bed there occurs a second more than equally great deposit of quartz rock, generally of a white color, but in some of its strata tinged with red. It is truly a vast formation; forming, though laid along the surface at a low angle, by much the greater part of some of the loftiest