low in the series, and, as already explained, was the result of the solar evaporation of an inland lake, like, for example, the great salt lake near Utah, in the Rocky Mountains, or of the salt lakes of central Asia. The waters that ran into it contained quantities of salt in solution; and as the lake had no outlet, and only got rid of its water by evaporation, concentration of the chloride of sodium ensued, till at length super-saturation being induced, precipitation of rock-salt took place. The same formation yields the greater part of the gypsum quarried in England, though some also occurs in the Red Marl of the Magnesian Limestone series.[1]

In Devonshire and Cornwall, on Shap Fell in Westmoreland, and in Scotland chiefly near Aberdeen, the granite quarries afford much occupation to a number of people. Now that it has become the fashion to polish granites, these rocks are becoming of still more importance. But as they are not so easily hewn as sandstone, they do not come into use as ordinary building stones, except in such districts as Aberdeen, where no other good kind of rock is to be had. Basalt, Greenstones, and Felspathic porphyries from North Wales, Scotland, Charnwood Forest, and other districts in England, are also largely employed for building and road-making, and the Serpentines of Cornwall and Anglesea, and the Marbles of the Carboniferous Limestone of Derbyshire, yield beautiful materials for ornamental purposes.

I have now attempted to give an idea of the general physical geography of our country, both in ancient and

[1] For a full account of the physical formation of these deposits, see 'Journ. Geol. Soc.' 1871, vol. xxvii. pp. 189 and 241.—Ramsay.