

STONE FROM FRANCE

Marmor Celticum, Black and White Marble of France, Bianco e Nero di Francia

PAULUS SILENTIARIUS speaks of 'the Celtic mount, abounding in crystals, brings forth marbles of a black colour but shot through everywhere with milk white in irregular confusion.'¹

This marble is in reality brecciated, the black being often in sharp angular fragments; the cement is pure white, and grey sometimes appears. Both the black and white are extremely clear and clean, and the marble takes a good polish.

The ancient quarries of this marble, which were worked by the Romans, were rediscovered in 1844, on the river Lez, near St. Girons and St. Lezier.²

There are fine examples of it to be seen in the vestibule of the Hotel Metropole, London, in the chapel of S. Sebastiano, St. Peter's, and also in the choir of Santa Maria Maggiore at Rome.

¹ P. Silentarius, *op. cit.*

² According to Mr. Brindley.