

many different geological horizons ; the majority of those used for building and ornamental purposes being of the Cambrian, Silurian, Devonian and Carboniferous systems.¹

Marble, when formed of carbonate of lime without impurities, is pure white, as, for instance, statuary marble. The presence of other substances leads to various colorations. Yellow, pink and red tints are as a rule due to iron oxides ; blue-grey, grey and black to carbonaceous matter derived from organic remains.²

Marble is soft, can be easily scratched with a knife, and effervesces at the touch of hydrochloric acid.

The name marble is popularly but incorrectly given to any fairly hard and durable material that will take a polish and can be used for decorative purposes, but geologically speaking it is only applied to a rock composed of carbonate of lime.

The visitor in Rome cannot overlook the beauty and variety of the decorative stones which he encounters at every turn, in the museums, churches, temples and palaces, and which may awaken in him a desire to know something of their history and formation.

The guides are not to be trusted as to the names of marbles, which are invented by the stone-cutters, and are usually merely descriptive of colour or

¹ *Stones for Building and Decoration*, by George P. Merrill.

² *Ibid.*