

24 WHAT ROME WAS BUILT WITH

‘The purer varieties, which are perfectly white, crystalline and free from flaws, are quarried in blocks sometimes 10, 12, or 14 feet in length, for statuary purposes, and drawn on strong wagons by teams of bullocks down to the railway station at Carrara, where they are sent to their various destinations. The town of Carrara itself, however, contains several studios of sculptors, who fashion the stone at the spot where it is quarried.

‘An examination of the marble beds and their associated schistose strata shows at once that their crystalline structure is the result of metamorphism. They are referable to the Liassic and Oolitic, or Jurassic series as determined by Professor Pilla¹, who showed that the dark grey limestone of the Valley of Tecchia, containing Jurassic fossils, graduates by changes of colour and crystallization into the pure white of Carrara and Massa; a conclusion in which Sir R. I. Murchison, who has made a detailed examination of the whole chain of the Apennines, has fully concurred. Between the two great beds of crystalline limestone worked in the valley of the Torano, are calcareous schists, passing into micaschists; and the impression I received, upon a rather rapid survey in 1871, was that the two great beds of marble are disconnected portions of the same mass on opposite sides of a sharp anticlinal fold shown in these schists. The quarries at Massa produce blocks rivalling those of Carrara.’²

Jervis tells us that the marble mountains of the Apuan Alps extend without interruption along the mountainous region from Carrara as far as Stazzema

¹ Prof. Pilla showed that Carrara belonged to the Liassic and Oolitic systems. This was suggested years previously by Sir H. de la Beche and Sir Roderick Murchison confirmed it.

² Hull, *op. cit.*