

FAULT, in the language of miners, is the sudden interruption of the continuity of strata in the same plane, accompanied by a crack or fissure varying in width from a mere line to several feet, which is generally filled with broken stone, clay, &c.

FELSPAR. A simple mineral, which, next to quartz, constitutes the chief material of rocks. The white angular portions in granite are felspar. This mineral always contains some alkali in its composition. In common *felspar* the alkali is potash; in another variety, called Albite or Cleavelandite, it is soda. Glassy felspar is a term applied when the crystals have a considerable degree of transparency. Compact felspar is a name of more vague signification. The substance so called appears to contain both potash and soda.

FELSPATHIC. Of or belonging to felspar.

FERRUGINOUS. Any thing containing iron. *Etyim.*, *ferrum*, iron.

FLOETZ ROCKS. A German term, applied to the secondary strata by the geologists of that country, because these rocks were supposed to occur most frequently in flat horizontal beds. *Etyim.*, *flotz*, a layer or stratum.

FLUVIATILE. Belonging to a river. *Etyim.*, *fluvius*, a river.

FORMATION. A group, whether of alluvial deposits, sedimentary strata, or igneous rocks, referred to a common origin or period.

FOSSIL. All minerals were once called fossils, but geologists now use the word only to express the remains of animals and plants found buried in the earth.—*Etyim.*, *fossilis*, any thing that may be dug out of the earth.

FOSSILIFEROUS. Containing organic remains.

GALENA. A metallic ore, a compound of lead and sulphur. It has often the appearance of highly polished lead. *Etyim.*, *galeo*, to shine.

GARNET. A simple mineral, generally of a deep red colour, crystallized; most commonly met with in mica slate, but also in granite and other igneous rocks.

GEOLOGY, GEOGNOSEY. Both mean the same thing; but with an unnecessary degree of refinement in terms, it has been proposed to call our description of the structure of the earth *geognosy*, (*Etyim.*, *gea*, earth, and *ginosco*, to know,) and our theoretical speculations as to its formation *geology*, (*Etyim.*, *logos*, a discourse.)

GNEISS. A stratified primary rock, composed of the same materials as granite, but having usually a larger proportion of mica and a laminated texture. The word is a German miner's term.

GRANITE. An unstratified or igneous rock, generally found inferior to or associated with the oldest of the stratified rocks, and sometimes penetrating them in the form of dikes and veins. It is usually composed of three simple minerals, felspar, quartz, and mica, and derives its name from having a coarse *granular* structure: *granum*, Latin for grain. Westminster, Waterloo, and London bridges, and the paving-stones in the carriage-way of the London streets, afford good examples of the most common varieties of granite.

GREENSTONE. A variety of trap composed of hornblende and felspar.

GREYWACKE. *Grauwacke*, a German name, generally adopted by Geologists for the lowest members of the secondary strata. The rock is very often of a grey colour, hence the name *grau*, being German for grey, and *wacke*, being a Provincial miner's term.

GYPSEUM. A mineral composed of lime and sulphuric acid, hence called also *sulphate of lime*. Plaster and stucco are obtained by exposing gypsum to a strong heat. It is found so abundantly near Paris, that plaster of Paris is a common term in this country for the white powder of which casts are made. The term is used by Pliny for a stone used for the same purposes by the ancients. The derivation is unknown.

HORNBLLENDE. A simple mineral of a dark green or black colour, which enters largely into the composition of several varieties of the trap rocks.

HORNSTONE. A siliceous mineral substance, sometimes approaching nearly to flint or common quartz. It has a conchoidal fracture, and is infusible, which distinguishes it from the common felspar.

LACUSTRINE. Belonging to a lake. *Etyim.*, *lacus*, a lake.

LAMINE. Latin for plates; used in geology for the smaller layers of which a stratum is frequently composed.

LANDSLIP. A portion of land that has slid down in consequence of disturbance by an earthquake, or from being undermined by water washing away the lower beds which supported it.

LAVA. The stone which flows in a melted state from a volcano.

LIAS. A provincial name, adopted in scientific language, for a particular kind of limestone, which, being characterized together with its associated beds, by peculiar fossils, forms a particular group of the secondary strata.

LIGNITE. Wood converted into a kind of coal. *Etyim.*, *lignum*, wood.

LOAM. A mixture of sand and clay.