

in large quantity for paving the surface drains, and as borderings for ornamental flower-beds in gardens, &c.

The Government House at St. John's, a handsome building, is chiefly constructed of the red sandstone, or whinrock, from Signal hill, and also many of the old fortifications near the entrance to the harbor of St. John's, all derived from the neighboring hills. The rock generally, but especially the greenish grey variety, is of so intractable a nature that the action of the weather seems to have no appreciable effect whatever upon it; while, on the other hand, imported stones, especially limestones and soft sandstones, do not stand our climate at all well. The Roman Catholic Cathedral of St. John the Baptist is chiefly constructed of a sandstone from Kelley's Island in Conception Bay, belonging to the succeeding Cambrian formation. It is a good rock but not so durable as the former. One of the Convents at St. John's is built of a pale flesh red syenite from Conception Bay, and is a very handsome structure. A grey close-grained granite, from Rose Blanche, on the southern side of the island, has been used to some extent in the construction of Lighthouses. It is a durable and excellent building material.

Slates of superior quality occur in nearly every formation, but by far the best yet produced are derived from the Lower Cambrian of Smiths' Sound, in Trinity Bay, and also from Paradise Sound, Placentia Bay.

Quarries were opened at the former locality several years ago, and a considerable number of slates shipped to the United States, Canada, and elsewhere, besides supplying the local market of St. John's and Harbor Grace. The slate is generally of a dark purplish color, but sometimes light bluish green. It cleaves readily in slabs of any thickness desired, and is pronounced by the Welsh quarrymen of the place, in every respect, equal to the Carnarvon slate (being probably in almost the identical same Geological horizon). The limited local demand, and substitution of so many other roofing materials, rendered the quarrying of this slate non-remunerative and at present nothing is being done towards utilizing it. Flagstones of every variety may be had in abundance, in almost any district of the Island. The slates above mentioned can be dressed to any thickness desired, and would, if planed, be admirably adapted for bedding of billiard tables, &c.