tenance, found their home by our shores. Flocks of northern fowl, as the Penguin, the Auk, the Puffin, the Eider Duck, the Gannet, and the Ivory Gull, amid the crystal floes and ivory towers of winter, sought, where broke the deep cerulean wave, a hardy living, or swept with most graceful wing the keen arctic sky, fair forms of nature's beauty amid her desolation. We know, too, that the little snowy valved Yoldina, the pearly Saxicava, the Pecten, the Mussels, and the Astarte lived in the quiet bays, whose blue bosoms the summer's sun would open to reflect the cold gleam of glacier and snowfield. And even at the very feet of the ice torrents, where a few yards of sheltered soil were bared, the Arctic plants would spread their bright blossoms, as a sweet token of the brighter day prepared ahead.

F. BAIN.

MINERALOGY.

PAPER VII.—THE ZEOLITES.

The family of minerals known as the zeolites are somewhat related to feldspar in composition, they being complex silicates, all yield water when heated in the closed tube, and most of them gelatinize with hydrochloric acid. The name zeolite is of Greek origin, signifying a stone that boils, applicable on account of the bubbling of the minerals before the blowpipe. The name *Trap Minerals* is often applied to this group because they are frequently found in cavities and fissures of eruptive rocks. But these also occur in granite and gneiss. These minerals probably originate in the decomposition of the rock, mostly by superheated water in which the material is dissolved. After soaking into the cavities it gradually evaporated leaving the mineral in crystals. Some of them, as heulandite, seem to be formed in the cold rock. Among the more important zeolites are natrolite, thomsonite, analcite, chabazite, stilbite and heulandite.