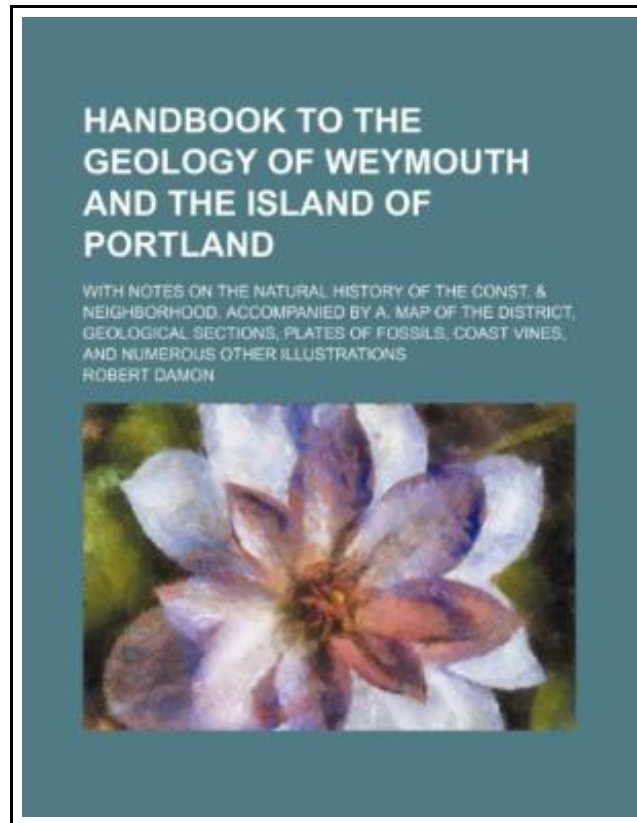


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Rarebooksclub.com, United States, 2012. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 246 x 189 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.This historic book may have numerous typos and missing text. Purchasers can download a free scanned copy of the original book (without typos) from the publisher. Not indexed. Not illustrated. 1860 Excerpt: . in Portland.f Stalactite--(from oraXdga, to drop) is formed by dropping water charged with calcareous matter in solution. All rain water contains carbonic acid, which, when passing through strata containing lime, forms a soluble bi-carbonate. In dropping from the roofs of caverns, evaporation of the watery particles takes place, and the solid portion which remains behind forms stalactitic pendants, which hang like icicles. Their component parts are determined by the nature of the strata through which the water passes. At Portland they are composed of a bi-carbonate of lime, J of an amber colour, the latter character being caused by the diffusion of oxide of iron. A beautifully crystallized form of calcareous spar, not uncommon, is composed of an aggregation of long slender translucent crystals, of a bright amber colour, and breaking with the Geo. Trans. second series, vol. iv. p. 255. f Fissures in rocks of volcanic origin, are supposed to be occasioned by their contraction, while passing from a heated to a cool state. Their occurrence in stratified rocks may arise from the violent tension to which the solid strata would be subjected during its upheaval, a tension that could only be relieved by a rent or fracture. In the latter instance, it is not uncommon to find the face of each side of the opening either polished or scratched from the rubbing together of the two sides. Another result is the horizontal displacement of the strata, i. e., a sinking or depression of...

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