

The basaltic rocks also extend south of Clermont, into the districts called the Velay and Viverrais, and cover a great portion of the soil. Near Monpezat, Thueys, and Jaujac, according to M. Faujas St. Fond, there are small volcanic mountains, with distinct currents of lava, that appear to issue from their feet, and flow into the valleys. The lower part of the lava is scoriaceous, but the upper part is hard sonorous basalt, arranged in columns as perfect as those of Staffa or the Giant's Causeway. We have here a decisive proof of the igneous formation of columnar basaltic rocks. "The basaltic formation extends into the South of France, to the borders of the Mediterranean Sea, where, near to Adge, is the extinct volcano of Saint Loup, the cellular lava of which is employed in the construction of buildings on the canal of Languedoc."—*Daubuisson*.*

There are numerous extinct volcanoes in several parts of Germany, particularly in some of the districts bordering the Rhine: these volcanoes, like those of central France, belong to different epochs, but the most recent appear to be more ancient than the earliest periods of authentic history. In the volcanic district of Eysel, between the Rhine and the Moselle, are scattered numerous small cones and eminences some with craters, the bottoms of which are filled with water, forming lakes or meres, without outlets. A German geologist divides these volcanoes into three classes:—

1. Those which have lakes or meres, and have ejected nothing but loose fragments of rock with balls of scorix and sand: of these there are eight in that district.
2. Those which have ejected fragments of slag, sometimes loose, and sometimes cemented: of these there are eight.
3. Those which have ejected streams of lava: of these six are enumerated.

According to Dr. Daubeny, who has visited these craters, the currents of lava have not been satisfactorily traced to their source, being sometimes buried under heaps of volcanic matter subsequently ejected. These volcanoes rise through transition rocks of slate and limestone. The Seven Mountains near Bonn, belong to a very remote volcanic epoch. Those readers who intend to visit the countries near the Rhine, will do well to consult Dr. Daubeny's work on volcanoes, in which will be found the best information respecting the extinct volcanoes of Germany.

In proportion as the surface of the earth becomes properly examined, our knowledge of extinct volcanoes in various countries is enlarged. According to Burckhardt, there are several in Arabia: a

* In the article "Volcano," which I wrote for Dr. Rees's Cyclopædia, I endeavoured to collect all the most important details of volcanic phenomena then known and have given an account of different experiments made on lava by Spallanzani and others, which the limits of the present volume will not allow me to notice.