

The silicious concretions formed by these springs cover an extent of four leagues; these are specimens of the more friable varieties, presented me by Professor Babbage. M. Eugene Robert, who has recently visited Iceland, states that this curious formation may be seen, passing by insensible gradations, from a loose friable state, the result of a rapid deposition, to the most compact and transparent masses, in which impressions of the leaves of the birch-tree, and portions of the stems, are distinctly perceptible, presenting the appearance of the agatized woods of the West Indies. Rushes, and various kinds of mosses converted into a white silicious rock, in which the minutest fibres are preserved, also occur; but on the margin of the Geysers, from the splashing of the water, the depositions resemble large cauliflowers; and on breaking these masses, vegetable impressions are often discovered. Numerous thermal springs occupy the valley in the interior of the island, in the midst of which the Geysers are situated. It is evident that these waters arise from deep crevices, in which they have been heated by volcanic fires. The rivers proceeding from the springs often resemble milk in appearance, owing to the argillaceous bole which they take up in their passage among the silicious concretions: such are the white rivers of Olassai. Mount Hecla, like all the mountains of Iceland, is entirely covered with snow, and no smoke appears on its summit. Accumulations of rolled masses of obsidian and pumice-