

that once extended over the whole area, covering a platform of primary rocks, and flowing on to the secondary strata, which, in this part of Ardèche, constitute an elevated limestone district.

This region affords a striking illustration of the erosion of the surface of a country by alluvial action. The thickness of the volcanic mass is between 300 and 400 feet; it is composed of two distinct beds of basalt, separated by a layer of scorïæ and volcanic fragments. Many portions, both of the upper and lower beds, are made up of well-defined, vertical, polygonal columns. The streams of lava to which these plateaux belong, have been traced for more than thirty miles; they rise in a narrow ridge across the primitive heights, and then spread over, and lie conformably upon, the secondary formations. The limestone beneath the basalt is, in some places, covered with vegetable soil, containing a common species of terrestrial shell (*Cyclostoma elegans*). The nearly horizontal disposition of the basalt, its columnar structure, and position on the limestone, into which it has injected veins and dikes, render it, as Mr. Scrope observes, very analogous to the ancient volcanic rocks of Ireland, which will be described in a future lecture.

43. MONT DOR.—Before entering upon the description of the organic remains found in the rocks and strata we have thus hastily surveyed, it will be necessary to notice another system of extinct