

mollusca, were enveloped in the tranquil depositions going on in the lacustrine basins.

3dly. Another elevation of the district; a new system of lakes was established, the country became clothed with forests, and inhabited by large deer, oxen, rhinoceroses, and hyenas, whose skeletons were imbedded in the sediments of the waters.

4thly. The volcanoes became active; explosions took place through hundreds of vents; trachyte and basalt were ejected, and in some places pierced the fresh-water deposits, while in others they overspread them with sheets of lava. Vegetation still flourished, and the remains of plants were entombed in the volcanic products.

5thly. Another period of tranquillity—the rivers, and other water-courses, dammed up, or deranged by the lava currents, formed new channels, and accumulated beds of gravel, sand, and clay. Gigantic deer and oxen still inhabited the district, having for contemporaries hyenas and other carnivora. Volcanic eruptions succeeded, and continued till a comparatively recent period.

Lastly. Floods and rivers of later date, which now constitute the drainage of the country, began to wear away channels through the beds of lava and limestone to the granite rock beneath, intersected the country with valleys and ravines, and spread over the ancient beds the modern alluvial soil.*

* This account of the volcanic district of Auvergne, is an abstract of the interesting Essays of Messrs. Bakewell, Sorope,