http://www.geology.19thcenturyscience.org/books/1839-Mantell-Geology/README.htm

# APPENDIX.

A. *Page* 21.—THE SURFACE OF THE MOON.—The moon is the only planetary body placed sufficiently near us, to have the inequalities of its surface rendered distinctly visible with the telescope. Attendant on the earth, and having nearly the same density, we may reasonably infer that the mineral substances of which it is composed do not differ essentially from those on the surface of our own planet. Astronomers now generally admit that the moon is surrounded by a very clear atmosphere, but which is so low that it scarcely occasions a sensible refraction of the rays of light when it passes over the fixed stars. Many of the dark parts of the moon, particularly the part called *mare crisium*, appear to be covered with a fluid, which may probably be more transparent and less dense than water, as the form of the rocks and craters are seen beneath it, but not so distinctly as in the lighter parts of the moon's surface. To examine the moon with a reference to its external structure, the defining power of the telescope should be of the first quality, sufficient to show the projections of the outer illuminated limb as distinctly as they appear when the moon is passing over the disk of the sun during a solar eclipse. With such a telescope, and a sufficient degree of light and of magnifying power, almost every part of the moon's surface appears to be volcanic, containing craters of enormous magnitude and vast depth: the shelving rocks, and the different internal ridges within them, mark the stations at which the lava has stood and formed a floor during different eruptions; while the cones in some of the craters resemble those formed within modern volcanoes. The largest mountain on the southern limb of the moon, like the largest volcanic cone on the earth, Chimborazo,