carbonic acid gas, so largely disengaged by subterranean volcanic action on limestone rocks.

The Lipari Isles, between Naples and Sicily, lying, as it were, midway between Vesuvius and Etna, present a character very analogous to the district I have just described, and their examination is replete with the highest interest. The crater of one of the islands, Stromboli, has been in constant activity from the earliest historical period. It always contains melted lava, in constant motion, which, at uncertain intervals, suddenly rises; and large bubbles appear, which, upon reaching to the brim of the crater, explode with a sound resembling thunder, and masses of lava, with dust and smoke, are thrown into the air; the incandescent mass then sinks down to its former level.* The interesting suite of specimens before us, were collected by William Tennant, Esq. from the cliffs of St. Calogero. These cliffs, which are about two hundred feet high, extend four or five miles along the coast, and consist of horizontal beds of volcanic tuff. From the perennial emanation of sulphureous vapour, the rocks are decomposed; alum, gypsum, and other sulphuric salts, are formed, as well as muriate of ammonia, and silky crystals of boracic acid. The dark clays have become yellow, white, red, pink, chequered, and marked with stripes of various colours. Veins of chalcedony and opal occur, and pumice-stone and obsidian are abundant. Dikes

* Spallanzani.