

attending the first appearance of this burning mountain, in the words of the illustrious Humboldt, "being one of the most extraordinary revolutions in the annals of the physical history of our planet."\* An extensive cultivated plain, called the *Malpays*, covered by fields of sugar, indigo, and cotton, irrigated by streams, and bounded by basaltic mountains, constituted a district remarkable for its fertility. In June 1759, alarming subterranean sounds were heard, accompanied by frequent earthquakes, which were succeeded by others for several weeks, to the great consternation of the neighbouring inhabitants. In September tranquillity appeared to be re-established, when in the night of the 28th the subterranean noise was again heard, and the plain of the Malpays, from three to four miles in extent, rose up in the shape of a bladder to a height of nearly 1700 feet; flames issued forth, fragments of red-hot stones were thrown to prodigious heights, and through a thick cloud of ashes, illumined by volcanic fire, the softened surface of the earth was seen to swell up like an agitated sea. A huge cone, above 500 feet high, was thrown up, and five smaller conical mounds, and thousands of lesser cones (called by the natives *hornitos*, or ovens) issued forth from the upraised plain. These consist of clay intermingled with decomposed basalt, each cone being a *fumarole*, from which issues thick vapour (Tab. 144). The

\* Nouvelle Espagne.