

wood's pyrometer), a temperature capable of melting all the lavas and a great portion of the known rocks ; finally, that a temperature of 212° F.—in other words, boiling-water heat—would prevail at a depth below the surface of 8100 feet. .

Hence it appears, that if the art of boring Artesian wells should one day be so developed as to carry their soundings to a depth of 8100 feet, and if at that depth any basins of water exist, we might draw from the interior of our earth real rivers of boiling water, imitate artificially the imposing phenomenon of the geysers, and endow human industry with incalculable treasures, by placing at its disposal, without cost or danger, the mechanical force of the vapour of water—steam—that universal motor, and regenerator of the world !

But, to quit the allurements of hypothesis and return to the domain of fact, we conclude, from the particulars now set forth, that the central mass of the earth is constantly in a state of liquefaction produced by heat ; and with this fundamental datum to guide us, we proceed to an investigation of the two great phenomena of Earthquakes and Volcanoes, which, at all epochs, have been a continual subject of terror for the vulgar, of astonishment for the philosopher, and of study for the man of science.