

numerous subterranean cavities. These are most remarkable in the neighbourhood of two secondary cones, called Monti Rossi. The outermost, the Fosse della Palomba, measures 625 feet in circumference. At the entrance its depth is 78 feet; but beyond this point it opens into another gloomy cavern—the first of a series of Erebus-like pits, conducting into a large gallery, 90 feet in length, and from 15 to 60 feet in breadth. This gallery abuts upon a passage leading to other caverns, which no man has yet ventured to explore.

The great altitude of Etna has had a singular influence on its general configuration. Seldom of sufficient energy to eject the lava from the summit-crater, its forces have contented themselves with forming numerous subsidiary craters and cones upon the flanks of the mountain, so that it seems like a parent volcano surrounded by a ring of volcanic bantlings. These occur chiefly in the woody region, and are about eighty in number; 52 on the west and north, 27 on the eastern side. Monti Minardo, one of the largest, is 700 feet high; Monti Rossi, which consists of two cones united at the base, where they have a circumference of nearly two miles, are 450 feet in height. Many of them are well-wooded, and of a singularly picturesque appearance; the volcanic ashes being completely hidden by a thick mantle of vegetation.

The grandest feature of the Etnean scenery is, however, the *Val del Bove*; a profound valley, or chasm, lying on the eastern declivity of the mountain, and extending from a point near the summit to the very border of the woody region. On one side it is prolonged to the cultivated ground by two smaller, narrow, and very romantic ravines. The Val del Bove itself is between four and five miles in diameter; its general appearance is that of an immense amphitheatre, whose arena or bed has been traversed by the billows of a sea of lava, which have swept round two masses of rock, like islands, and then suddenly congealed in all their tempestuous fury! A wall or barrier of rocks, highly inclined, fences round this awful amphitheatre—a fit scene for the pastimes of gods and Titans!—with