

namons, figs, dryandra, prickly vines, nyssa, and other plants, and on the lake water-lilies expanded their leaves and flowers.

The present Europe, partly then a continent, was, in Miocene times, the theatre of wide-spread volcanic eruptions in Central France, Germany, and that part of the British Islands now known as the Inner Hebrides, and also in the north-east of Ireland. In that region they play a much more important part in connection with the physical geography of our country than they do at Bovey Tracey. In the land of Antrim, from thence through the Isles of Mull, Rum, Eigg, Cana, Muck, and Skye, a vast broken belt of Miocene volcanic rocks forms great part of the Inner Hebrides; and far beyond Britain, in the Faroe Islands, Iceland, Spitzbergen, and Franz Joseph Land, the same volcanic series is found, fragments perhaps of one large continuous territory, or, if not, at all events of a series of large islands, of which the Faroes make one of the fragments.

In Scotland these volcanic rocks consist chiefly of Basalts, Dolerites, Felstones, and Amygdaloids, interbedded with agglomerates of lapilli, large blocks, and volcanic bombs, such as are piled on the sides of almost all volcanoes, and which often go by the name of volcanic ashes. These occur, associated with beds of clay or soil, and streaks of lignite. Some of the clays contain leaves of plants. The late Professor Edward Forbes determined their age, and later observations made by Professor Heer confirm his accuracy.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> For an elaborate memoir on these volcanic rocks, see Mr. Judd 'On the Ancient Volcanoes of the Highlands, &c.,' 'Journal of the Geological Society,' 1874, vol. xxx., p. 220. The whole subject of the growth and decay of these volcanoes is there treated of in a manner never before attempted.