

of the scattered blocks, and of some coarse unstratified detritus, in the steep defile that descends from the east into the valley of the Dordogne, was at least sufficient to suggest the possibility of a partially glacial origin for some of the deep valleys of the Mont Dore.<sup>1</sup>

The Baths lie in a valley of surpassing loveliness, hemmed in by lofty mountains and huge precipices. The climate is delicious as a contrast to the scorching sultriness of the lower plains, and hence the locality has been a watering-place since the days of the Roman occupation of Gaul. We had time only to get a peep at the conglomerates and trachytes of this great volcanic district. Everything is on a scale so much vaster than in the country of the Puy de Dôme, that the first impression of the geologist is one of bewilderment. We did not remain long enough to get rid of this feeling, and at this moment I have a confused remembrance of vast irregular sheets of trachytic lava, separated by piles of volcanic ash and conglomerate, the whole thrown together in a way which at the time it seemed hopeless to attempt to unravel ; of dykes and veins of basalt, and currents of lava, belonging to much more recent eruptions that flowed down the deep valleys which had been excavated out of the ancient lavas.

Contenting ourselves with a mere survey of its external features, we left the Mont Dore district by the road which, on re-ascending from the valley of the Dordogne, strikes towards the east and then sweeps down into the valley of Chambon. The Baths, after lying for some hours under the shade of the great hills, were bathed in sunlight, and full of bustle, as we drove through the streets. Invalids, valetudinarians, and fashionable visitors, may be seen passing

<sup>1</sup> Since this essay was published the former existence of glaciers in Auvergne has been shown by MM. Delanoue, Marcou, and Gruner.