

proceeded no further than the first stage of gaseous explosion. A caldron-like cavity has been torn open in the ground, and ejected fragments of the solid rocks, through which the explosion has emerged, have fallen back into and round the vent. Subsequently, after possible subsidence of the fragmentary materials in the vent, and even of the sides of the orifice, water supplied by rain and filtering from the neighboring ground may partially, or wholly, fill up the cavity, so as to produce a lake either with or without a superficial outlet. Under favorable circumstances, vegetation creeping over bare earth and stone may so conceal all evidence of the original volcanic action as to make the quiet sheet of water look as if it had always been an essential part of the landscape. Explosion-lakes (Crater-lakes) of this kind occur in districts of extinct volcanoes, as in the Eifel (*maare*), central Italy, and Auvergne. The crateriform hollow called the Gour de Tazenat, in Velay, has a diameter of half a mile and lies in the granite, while another cavity near Confolens, on the left bank of the Loire, has also been blown out of the granite and has given passage to no volcanic materials, but only to broken-up granite.¹⁰⁰ Other illustrations in central France are to be found in the Lakes of Pavin, Mont Sineire, Chauvet, Beurdense, Champedaze and La Godival.¹⁰¹ A remarkable example is supplied by the Lonar Lake in the Indian peninsula, half-way between Bombay and Nagpur. It lies in the midst of the volcanic plateau of the Deccan traps, which extend around it for hundreds of miles in nearly flat beds that slightly dip away from the lake. An almost circular

¹⁰⁰ Tournaire, Bull. Soc. Geol. France, xxvi. (1869), p. 1166; Daubrée, Comptes rend. 1890, p. 859.

¹⁰¹ Scrope, "Volcanoes of Central France," pp. 81, 143, 144.