league; for Ætna, Hecla, and many other volcanos, have at least that elevation from the plains. Now it is perfectly well-known that the action of fire, is equal in every direction ; it cannot therefore act upwards with a force capable of throwing large stones half a league high, without an equal re-action downwards, and on the sides; and which reaction must very soon pierce and destroy the mountain on every side, because the materials which compose it are not more dense and firm than those thrown out; how then can it be imagined that the cavity, which must be considered as the tube or cannon, could resist so great a force as would be necessary to raise those bodies to the mouth of the volcano? Besides, if this cavity were deeper, as the external orifice is not great, it would be impossible for so large a quantity of inflamed and liquid matter to issue out at once, without clashing against the sides of the tube, and by passing through so long a space they would run the chance of being extinguished and hardened. We often see rivers of bitumen and melted sulphur, thrown out of the volcanos, with stones and minerals, flow from the tops of the mountains into the plains; is it natural to imagine that matters so fluid, and

60