

the earth, generally issue from their flanks. The longest known current of modern lava is in Iceland—it extends sixty miles; but the volcanoes in that island bear no proportion to the magnitude of the lunar volcanoes.

Geologists who are reluctant to admit the extensive agency of fire on the surface of the terrestrial globe, would have their difficulties removed, were they to study attentively the surface of the moon with a powerful telescope; for there we see the entire hemisphere of a planetary body subjected to the agency of volcanic fire.

Since my return from the extinct volcanoes of Auvergne, I have frequently amused myself in comparing the structure of parts of the moon's surface with that of the volcanic districts in central France; and I could scarcely avoid the conclusion, that the summits of many volcanic mountains in the moon, which reflect so much more light than the other parts, are, like those in Auvergne, composed of rocks analogous to white pumice or trachyte. I have suggested these hints, to direct the attention of geologists and astronomers to our attendant planet. *Is it inhabited? Is it passing to a habitable state? or does it present the ruins of a former habitable globe, torn by the powerful agency of volcanic fire?* Its appearance seems most to agree with the latter condition. Perhaps the perfection to which telescopes are advancing on the Continent may enable astronomers, at no distant period, to answer these questions.

ORBICULAR PORPHYRY AND ORBICULAR GRANITE OF CORSICA.

THESE are two of the most rare and beautiful rocks; but little is known respecting their relation with other rocks in that island. According to specimens of considerable size, which I have before me, this porphyry is composed of compact felspar, varying in colour from a greenish to a reddish brown. The globules vary in diameter from one third of an inch to three inches. The most perfectly formed globules have a small globule in the centre of each, from which ranges of minute globules diverge, giving to the large globules the appearance of a radiated diverging structure, more or less regular. In the smaller globules there are concentric circles, which disappear in the larger ones, except near their superficies. The paste in which these globules are imbedded contains also minute globules of lighter coloured felspar, variously arranged. The larger globules are some of them elongated, as if they had been in fusion. The experiments of Mr. G. Watt on basalt (see page 146) elucidate the formation of orbicular porphyry.

The globular structure was probably developed during the semiliquefaction of the mass, which formed globules, instead of perfect crystals, as in common porphyry. The globules in the Corsican porphyry can be easily detached from the mass. Common porphyry, in which the imbedded felspar occurs in rounded spots, is called *Variolite*.

The orbicular granite of Corsica is better known in this country: it is a finely granitic rock, composed of white felspar and blackish green