

the pale-yellow honeysuckle, that we had never seen before, save in gardens and shrubberies ; and on a deeply shaded slope that leaned against one of the steeper precipices, we detected the sweet-scented woodruff of the flower-plot and parterre, with its pretty verticillate leaves, that become the more odoriferous the more they are crushed, and its white delicate flowers. There, too, immediately in the opening of the deeper cave, where a small stream came pattering in detached drops from the over-beetling precipice above, like the first drops of a heavy thunder-shower, we found the hot, bitter scurvy grass, with its minute cruciform flowers, which the great Captain Cook had used in his voyages ; above all, *there* were the caves with their pigeons,—white, variegated, and blue,—and their mysterious and gloomy depths, in which plants hardened into stone, and water became marble. In a short time we had broken off with our hammer whole pocketfuls of stalactites and petrified moss. There were little pools at the side of the cave, where we could see the work of congelation going on, as at the commencement of an October frost, when the cold north wind ruffles, and but barely ruffles, the surface of some mountain lochan or sluggish moorland stream, and shows the newly-formed needles of ice projecting mole-like from the shores into the water. So rapid was the course of deposition, that there were cases in which the sides of the hollows seemed growing almost in proportion as the water rose in them ; the springs, lipping over, deposited their minute crystals on the edges ; and the reservoirs deepened and became more capacious as their mounds were built up by this curious masonry. The long telescopic prospect of the sparkling sea, as viewed from the inner extremity of the cavern, while all around was dark as midnight,—the sudden gleam of the sea-gull, seen for a moment from the recess, as it flitted past in the sunshine,—the black heaving bulk of the grampus, as it threw up its slender jets of spray, and then, turning downwards, displayed its glossy back and vast angular fin,—even the pigeons, as they shot whizzing by, one moment scarce visible in the gloom, the next radiant in the light,—all acquired a new interest, from the pe-