

recent volcanoes, where, like the dry bones in the field of old, they might straightway be touched into life.

As the Scottish volcanoes had been of small extent, as well as eminently sporadic in their distribution, it seemed to promise more success to compare them with a district where similar local phenomena had been manifested, than with such regions as those of Etna or Vesuvius, where the eruptions had been on a larger scale, and had proceeded from the different vents of one great volcano. There were two districts in Europe that appeared likely to throw light on the subject—one of these lay in the Fifel, the other in the high grounds of Auvergne and the Haute-Loire. The latter covers a much greater area than the German tract, and presents besides a more extensive variety of volcanic phenomena. It had been described in detail in the admirable volume of Mr. Poulett Scrope, as well as in several other works and memoirs by able geologists in France and England. These writings did not, indeed, treat the geological structure of the country from the particular point of view which chiefly interested me at the time, but they formed an invaluable guide to one who wished to acquire as rapidly as possible a general knowledge of the region. So it was resolved by an old comrade and myself to go to Auvergne, and enlarge our ideas in one department of British geology. Between two countries once so closely linked together in peace and war, it seemed as if there might be another relationship than that of mere State policy; and so with some such fanciful notion we set out to see how far we could succeed in establishing a geological connection between Central Scotland and Central France.

Not many years ago it was a matter of no little discomfort to reach the high grounds of the Puy de Dôme and the other departments in the interior of France. Several days