

tance the eye rests on the bright, corn-clad Limagne. The long line of volcanic cones stretching to the north and south affords every facility to the geologist, and presents him, moreover, with a class of phenomena not found round the larger active volcanoes of Europe. The independence, small extent, number, and local distribution of the cones are features that throw light on what must have been the character and aspect of the Carboniferous volcanoes of Central Scotland, to illustrate which had been the object of my visit to Auvergne. A closer examination of these cones brings out a further parallelism with the more ancient vents. The Puy de Pariou, for example—one of the most accessible, and at the same time one of the most perfect, cones of the chain—lies somewhat more than a mile due north of the Puy de Dôme. It consists, in reality, of two craters, but only a portion of the northern rim of the older one is now visible, the rest being occupied by the newer crater, which is still in a perfect state of preservation. Ascending, as is usual, from the east side, the visitor first passes over a lava-current. From the foot of the cone the ascent is tolerably steep, among coarse grass, violets, marlagon lilies, yellow gentians, and many other flowers, until the top of the older cone is reached, whence he looks down into the first crater, with the gap which the lava-current has made in it. Walking southward along its rim, he sees it passing under a later cone, which reaches a height of 738 feet above the plateau from which the southern side of the hill rises. After a second ascent, he arrives at last at the top of the Puy, and finds that the newer cone has been erupted over the southern half of the older one, and that it contains a beautifully perfect crater. Hence, from the top of the Puy there is on the south side an unbroken declivity, sloping at about  $35^{\circ}$ , down to the surface of the tableland,