

while on the north side the inner cone descends first into the older crater, which half encircles it. The last-formed crater measures 3000 feet in circumference. It is an inverted cone; its sides are smooth and grassy, and shelve steeply down to a depth of 300 feet. They have been indented by a series of cattle-tracks, rising in successive steps above each other, which Mr. Scrope aptly compares to the seats of an amphitheatre. Nothing can be more complete or regular than this part of the Puy. While ascending the outer slopes, one looks forward to reach a broad flat tableland on the top, carpeted perchance with the same coarse heather and wild flowers as clothe the sides of the hill: but, instead of level ground, one gazes down into a deep, round, smooth-sided crater, covered with grass to the bottom. Between the inward slope of this hollow and the outward declivities of the Puy, the rim is at times so narrow that you may almost sit astride on it, one foot dangling into the crater, the other pointing down to the plateau from which the hill rises. And there, with wild flowers clustering around, butterflies hovering past, cattle browsing leisurely down the sides of the crater below, while the tinkle of the sheep-bells ever and anon comes up with the scented breeze from the outer slopes of the Puy, one cannot without an effort picture the turmoil and violence to which the Puy owes its rise, when the ground was rent by subterranean explosions, and when showers of dust and stones were thrown out from the orifice.

From the older crater, now more than half filled up by the last eruptions, a stream of lava passes out northwards, through a great gap in the cone, trending at once to the east, over the plateau and down the valley of Villar. Here the history of the whole Puy is at once apparent. First of all, after some underground movements, a fracture was