

road winding up the side of the granitic plateau crosses several of the lava-streams which have descended the valleys, like that from the cone of Pariou, and at last reaches the desolate tableland on which runs the chain of the Puys. A good view is obtained of several of the cones on the south side of the Puy de Dôme, the ruined yawning craters of the Puy de las Solas and the Puy de la Vache being especially noticeable, with their now silent rivers of black rugged lava. From the half-way house the road runs southward over the undulating surface of the plateau, until it begins the ascent of the Mont Dore hills. These heights, in their lower portions, are tolerably green, and constantly recall to my memory parts of the basaltic scenery of Skye and Mull. Numerous blocks of basalt, sometimes of considerable size, are scattered over the surface, and often lie in such positions that it is difficult to see how the action of the atmosphere, or of running water, could have placed them there. I kept an eye on the alert to detect a striated or polished surface; but there is little rock exposed in places along the road, and I was unsuccessful. It seemed at the time, however, to be far from unlikely that some of these great blocks of stone had been ice-borne. When the glaciers of the Alps filled the valley of the Lake of Geneva, at a height of no more than 1200 feet above the sea, there seems no reason why glaciers should not have descended from the Mont Dore mountains, which now form the highest ground in Central France, rising in the Pic de Sancy to a height of 6217 feet. At this day, indeed, snow remains unmelted in the higher recesses of these mountains even in midsummer. I am not aware, however, that the existence of glaciers has ever been recognised here, and I had no time even to make any attempt to solve the question for myself. The occurrence