

tion of the land. Nothing we had read in geological literature, not even Mr. Scrope's classic descriptions of this very region, had prepared us for the contemplation of changes so stupendous as those of the erosion of the ravines and valleys of Le Puy. To look upon them for the first time was, as I have said, like a new revelation, which in an instant uprooted a host of narrow long-cherished conceptions, and supplanted them with a profound respect for the power of the terrestrial agencies of waste. Broader, and truer, and fresher views of nature are worth the trouble of a long journey, and in gaining them we felt ourselves abundantly repaid for our toil under a fierce sun among the uplands of Central France.