

showing the distribution of his "bands" with their characteristic minerals. He was accompanied by his former schoolfellow and then his valued friend, Malesherbes. On reaching Moulins on the Allier, he was struck by the nature of the black stone employed for mile-posts, and felt certain that it must be of volcanic origin. On inquiring whence the material came, and learning that it was from Volvic, "Volvic!" he exclaimed, "Volcani Vicus!" and at once determined to make without delay for this probably volcanic centre.¹ His excitement in the chase after an unknown volcano seems to have increased with every step of the journey, as more and more of the dark stone appeared in the buildings by the roadside. At Riom he found the town almost entirely built of the material, which he felt sure he had now run nearly to earth. Learning that the quarries were still some two leagues distant, he pushed on to them, and great was his delight to find all his suspicions amply confirmed. He recognised the rock as a solidified current of lava which had flowed down from the high granitic ridge for some five miles into the plain below, and he found

¹ Twenty-eight years after this discovery Guettard found himself forced to defend his claim to be the discoverer of the old volcanoes of Central France, and to ask his friend Malesherbes for his testimony to the justice of that claim. Malesherbes accordingly wrote him a letter giving an account of their journey to Auvergne, which Guettard printed in the preface to his treatise, in two volumes, on the mineralogy of Dauphiné. It is curious that, with the statements of the two travellers long before in print, Scrope should have published a totally inaccurate version of the journey in the first edition of his *Volcanoes of Central France*, and should have repeated it in the second edition.