

it to be divided into sheets inclined with the general slope of the ground, but separated from each other by layers of clay, earth or sand, as in the case of sedimentary formations, yet solid, and breaking easily in any direction, so as to lend itself readily to the arts of the stone-mason.

Travelling southward along the base of the picturesque ridge of the Puys, Guettard and Malesherbes reached Clermont, where they procured the services of an intelligent apothecary, who had some knowledge of the topography of the hills. They climbed the steep slopes of the Puy de Dôme—a hill made famous by Pascal. Everywhere they noticed volcanic debris partially concealed under vegetation. If the view from the first volcano above Volvic delighted the travellers, we can imagine their amazement and pleasure when the marvellous panorama around the highest craterless summit spread itself like a map around them. As their eyes ranged over that array of old volcanoes, so perfect in form that it is difficult to believe them to have been silent ever since the beginning of human history, they could mark the cones rising one behind the other in long procession on the granite ridge, each bearing its cup-shaped crater atop.

In descending from the mountain they came upon another crater, probably that of the Petit Puy de Dôme, a singularly perfect example of the type, some 300 feet deep, and the same in diameter of rim, with such regular and smooth slopes that it has been named by the shepherds the Hen's Nest. Everywhere they encountered quantities of pumice, which so entirely convinced Guettard of the true volcanic nature of the