

the fire, raging furiously within, will be able to melt and vitrify the most intractable substances.”<sup>1</sup> He finds evidence in Auvergne of this presumed connection between the combustion of carbonaceous substances and volcanic eruptions, and he cites in illustration the Puy de Crouel and Puy de la Poix, near Clermont, where the black bituminous material can actually be seen at the surface. Summing up his observations he concludes thus: “I do not believe that the reality of our volcanoes will now be called in question, save perhaps from anxiety for the safety of the districts around them. For myself, confident as to the first point, I confess that I share in the anxiety regarding the second. Hot springs have generally been regarded as due to some kind of concealed volcanoes. Those of Mont Dore rise at the very foot of the mountains; those of Clermont are only some two leagues from the chain of the Puys. It may very well be that their high temperature is kept up by the same internal fires which formerly had a communication with these extinct volcanoes, or might now easily establish one should they increase in activity.”<sup>2</sup>

His fears for the safety of the Auvernois were by no means shared by the people themselves, for they refused to believe that the Puys, which they had known from infancy as quiet, well-behaved hills, had ever been anything else, and they looked upon the

<sup>1</sup> *Trans. Roy. Acad. Sciences* for 1756, p. 52. This adoption of the time-honoured belief is severely criticised by Desmarest, but the same belief was subsequently accepted by Werner, and became a prominent item in the Wernerian creed.

<sup>2</sup> *Op. cit.* p. 53.