

“Mont Grenier rises very abruptly upwards of 4000 feet above the plain. It is capped with an immense mass of limestone strata, not less than 600 feet in thickness, which presents on every side the appearance of a wall. The strata dip gently to the side which fell into the plain. This mass of limestone, rests on a foundation of softer strata, probably molasse, under which are distinctly seen thin strata, alternating with soft strata. The annexed cut represents the east wing of the mountain, and a small part of the Abymes de Myans. There can be little doubt that the catastrophe was caused by the gradual erosion of the soft strata, which undermined the mass of limestone above, and projected it into the plain. It is also probable, that the part which fell, had for some time been nearly detached from the mountain by a shrinking of the southern side, as there is at present a rent at this end, upwards of 2000 feet deep, which seems to have cut off a large section from the eastern end, that now

‘Hangs in doubtful ruins round its base,’

as if prepared to renew the catastrophe of 1248. The Abymes de Myans are hills, or rather monticules, of a conical shape, varying in height from twenty to thirty feet; they cover about nine square miles: the monticules are composed of fragments of calcareous strata, some of which are of immense size. They consist of yellowish oolitic limestone, strongly resembling the lower oolites in Gloucestershire; a gray limestone, harder and more crystalline than lias, which, however, it may probably be; and a thin slaty arenaceous limestone, much resembling Stonesfield slate. Fragments of schistose chert were interstratified with some of the limestone.

“The largest masses have, evidently, fallen from the upper bed of limestone by which Mont Grenier is capped. The velocity they would acquire by falling from so great a height, making due allowance for the resistance of the atmosphere, could not be less than 300 feet per second; and the projectile force they gained by striking against the base of the mountain, or against each other, has spread them far into the plain. In the course of years, the rains or currents of water from dissolving snows, have furrowed channels between the larger masses of stone, and, washing away part of the loose earth, have left the immense number of detached conical hills which are seen at present. So deep and vast was the mass of ruins that covered the town of St. André and the other parishes, that nothing belonging to them has been discovered, except a small bronze statue.”—  
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A part of a mountain near Servos, on the road to Chamouny, fell down in the year 1751. The fall continued for many days, and the air was darkened with immense volumes of black dust, which extended for twenty miles, and is still remembered by some of the oldest inhabitants of Chamouny. A continued succession of reports, like those of cannon, announced the successive falling of rocks, day