

## V.

AMONG THE VOLCANOES OF CENTRAL  
FRANCE.<sup>1</sup>

It had been my good fortune to spend several years in a more or less continuous examination of those volcanic hills and crags which form so characteristic a feature in the scenery of the great central valley of Scotland. I had traced them over many hundreds of square miles, sometimes underneath the very streets and squares of a town, sometimes across richly-cultivated fields, and sometimes far inland among lonely moors and mosses. I had studied their association with the stratified rocks of that old era of this country's history known as the Carboniferous Period; I had thus been enabled, in some measure, to realise the scenery of that ancient time—its wide jungles and lagoons, crowded with graceful trees, and dotted here and there with dark pine-clothed volcanic cones that sent out their columns of steam and showers of ashes, or rolled their streams of lava into the shallow waters. My restorations of the Carboniferous landscapes, however, could not but be incomplete and unsatisfactory. They wanted spirit and life, even more than the plaster model of some extinct monster constructed from the hints that may be suggested by a tooth and a few bones. They needed comparison with some region of

<sup>1</sup> *Vacation Tourists and Notes of Travel in 1861*, Macmillan and Co.