

in Book III. Part I. give rise to two very distinct types of scenery. The ordinary volcanic vent leads to the piling up of a conical mass of erupted materials round the orifice. In its simplest form, the cone is of small size, and has been formed by the discharges from a single funnel, like many of the tuff and cinder-cones of Auvergne, the Eifel and the Bay of Naples. Every degree of divergence from this simplicity may be traced, however, till we reach a colossal mountain like Etna, wherein, though the conical form is still retained, eruptions have proceeded from so many lateral vents that the main cone is loaded with minor volcanic hills. Denudation as well as explosion comes into play; deep and wide valleys, worn down the slopes, serve as channels for successive floods of lava or of water and volcanic mud. On the other hand, the type of fissure-eruption in which the lava, instead of issuing from a central vent, has flowed out from minor vents along the lines of many parallel or connected fissures, leads to the formation of wide lava-plains composed of successive level sheets of lava. By subsequent denudation, these plains are trenched by valleys, and, along their margin, are cut into escarpments with isolated blocks or outliers. Thus they become great plateaus or table-lands like those of northwest Europe, the Deccan and Abyssinia (pp. 439, 982).

The forms assumed by volcanic masses of older Tertiary and still earlier geological date are in the main due not to their original contours, but to denudation. The rocks, being commonly harder than those among which they lie, stand out prominently, and often, in course of time and in virtue of their mode of weathering, assume a conical form, which, however, has obviously no relation to that of the original volcano. Eminences formed after the type of