



THE GEYSERS.

In Iceland, some singular results of volcanic action are discoverable. There are vents, or aqueous craters, which discharge streams of boiling water, or columns of steam. The chief of these are at Haukadal, far behind Mount Hecla, the snow-clad summits of which are, however, within sight. Within a very limited space, a great number of these geysers, or hot-spouting springs, the name being derived from the Icelandic verb to rage, "to burst forth violently," are apparent, and the clouds of vapour they emit are visible at the distance of several miles.

One is called "the great geyser," a name to which, as the largest in Iceland, it is fully entitled. A large mound, formed of the various substances it has ejected during the lapse of ages, surrounds it. This mound is hollow, in fact, a basin, about one