

which have been detached from the precipices above, and profusely scattered along their base at the water's edge, we found in abundance agates of various kinds, and possessing great beauty. Some were of the variety called fortification agate, from a resemblance to military works, on the polished surface of the specimens. This variety is often found well characterized on the shore; sometimes in small nodules, which have been polished by attrition, and resemble the Scotch pebble in every respect: at other times it is found in large tabular masses, which are evidently the ruins of veins from the overhanging trap rocks. The specimens of this vicinity frequently contain the outlines of many fortifications in the compass of a few inches. The base of this agate is an opaque white chalcedony, alternating with rows of transparent quartz and yellow jasper, the last generally constituting the external layer. Fine brecciated agates were also met with, composed of angular masses of red and yellow jasper cemented by transparent and amethystine quartz, often enclosing, in geodes, beautiful crystals of purple amethyst, which, covering the whole interior of the cavity with protruding crystals, vie in beauty with any specimens brought from the banks of the Rhine. A large geode was found on the shore of St. Mary's Bay, which, weighing more than forty pounds, was composed almost entirely of the richest purple amethyst, the mass having but a thin coat of fortification agate externally. On an examination of the crystals of this geode, we found a substance of a reddish brown color, traversing the amethyst, in fibres or acicular crystals, which, beginning at the implanted extremity of the crystal, shoot out into diverging, scoopiform, and fasciculated groups, to the opposite extremity. On exposure to a full red heat, this amethyst loses its color, becomes transparent, and has a vitreous lustre; the included fibres, at the