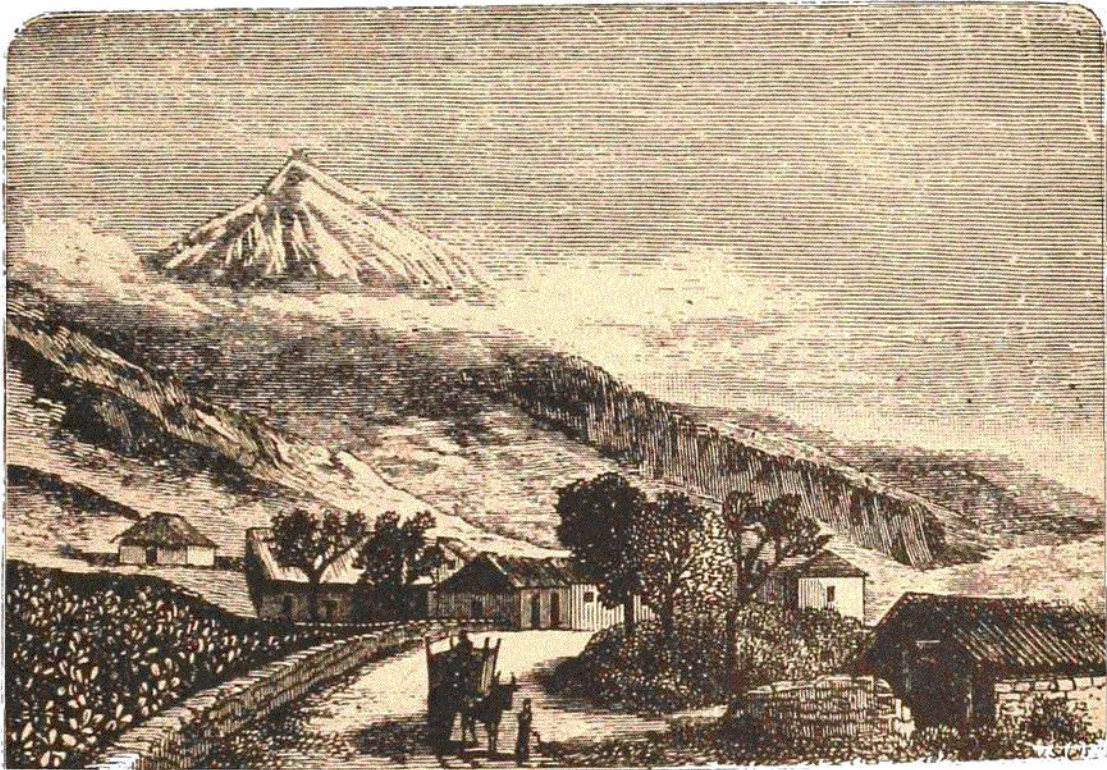


which leads to the base of the actual cone of the Peak. This ridge is bounded by a precipice on the side facing Orotava. The villagers tried to dissuade the party from going farther after we had ascended about 2,000 feet, saying that we should be frozen to death.

The well-known zones of vegetation of the Peak of Tenerife are not very well defined on the route which we adopted. The limit of cultivation was reached at about 3,000 feet, at which height corn of some kind was just springing up, and we passed above this into a zone covered with a tree-like heath (*Erica*



PEAK OF TENERIFE FROM THE ROAD ABOVE OROTAVA.

(From a sketch by the Author.)

*arborea*). This heath continued for about 2,000 feet, and then ceased abruptly, and we came, higher up, amongst large bluish-green bushes of a sort of broom (*Spartocytisus nubigenus*), called by the natives "Retama," amongst which we pitched our tent, at an elevation of 6,500 feet. Above the Retama, a small violet (*Viola teydeana*) is said to extend up to 10,000 feet, and above this all is barren. The pine (*Pinus canariensis*) which grows on some parts of the mountain is not seen on the usual track of ascent. A halt was made amongst the heath for lunch, and plenty of water-cresses were found growing in a spring. We had to carry water up with us from this spring since there is no water to be obtained above, except by melting snow. The porous volcanic ashes soak up all the