

So fully did the resemblance of the noises to the report of cannon impress the minds of some officers, that, from an apprehension of pirates on the coast, vessels were dispatched to afford relief. Superstition on the other hand was busily at work on the minds of the natives, and attributed the reports to an artillery of a different description to that of pirates. All conceived that the effects experienced might be caused by eruptions of some of the numerous volcanoes on the island; but no one could have conjectured that the showers of ashes which darkened the air and covered the ground of the eastern districts of Java, could have proceeded from a mountain in Sumbawa, at the distance of several hundred miles."

The lieutenant-governor of Java directed a circular to the different residents, requiring them to transmit to the governor a statement of the facts and circumstances connected with this eruption. The most remarkable circumstance attending this eruption, is the distance at which the explosions were heard in the islands of the Indian Sea. "From Sumbawa to the part of Sumatra where the sound was noticed, is about nine hundred and seventy geographical miles. From Sumbawa to Ternate, is a distance of about seven hundred and twenty miles. The distance to which the cloud of ashes was carried so thickly as to produce utter darkness was clearly pointed out to be the Island of Celebes, and the district of Grisik in Java; the former two hundred and seventeen nautical miles in a direct line, the latter more than three hundred geographical miles." The greatest distance at which the eruption of any volcano had been previously heard, is six hundred miles: according to M. Humboldt, the explosions from Cotopaxi are sometimes sensibly heard at that distance from the volcano, which is one of the largest and highest in the American continent.

The long period of repose which sometimes takes place between two eruptions of the same volcano, is particularly remarkable. From the building of Rome to the 79th year of the Christian era, no mention is made of Vesuvius, though it had evidently been in a prior state of activity, as Herculaneum and Pompeii, which were destroyed by the eruption of that year, are paved with lava. From the 12th to the 16th century it remained quiet, for nearly four hundred years, and the crater was overgrown with lofty trees. The crater was descended by Bracchini, an Italian writer, prior to the great eruption of 1631: the bottom was at that time a vast plain, surrounded by caverns and grottoes. *Ætna* has continued burning since the time of the poet Pindar, with occasional intervals of repose, seldom exceeding thirty or forty years.

The eruptions of the Peak of Teneriffe have been very rare during the last two centuries. According to Humboldt, "the long intervals of repose appear to characterize volcanoes highly elevated. Stromboli, which is one of the lowest, is always burning; the eruptions of Vesuvius are rarer, but still more frequent than those of