

to the northern, along a line of six thousand miles in length. Of the volcanoes in northern Asia, or the interior of Africa, we have little information, and the volcanoes covered by the sea, cannot be estimated; but from the above statement, we are authorized in believing, that volcanic fires are more extensively operative, than many geologists are disposed to admit.

Many facts might be cited to prove the connection which exists between volcanoes at a vast distance from each other. In 1783, when a submarine volcano near Iceland suddenly ceased its eruptions, a volcano broke out two hundred miles distant, in the interior of the island. On the night in which Lima and Callao were destroyed by an earthquake, four new volcanoes broke out in the Andes. The source of volcanic fire is seated deep under the surface of the earth: were it not so, the ground in the vicinity of volcanoes would sink down. Yet *Ætna* has continued to pour out streams of lava for three thousand years; and *Stromboli* has had daily eruptions for nearly as long a period.*

There are some instances of volcanoes having been entirely engulfed in the chasms beneath them. The volcano of the *Pic* in the Island of *Timore*, one of the *Moluccas*, is known to have served as a prodigious watch-light, which was seen at sea at the distance of three hundred miles. In the year 1638, the mountain during a violent eruption entirely disappeared, and in its place there is now a lake. Many of the circular lakes in the south of *Italy* are supposed to have been formed by the sinking down of volcanoes; but the best authenticated account we have of the destruction of a volcanic mountain, is given by *Governor Raffles* in his *History of Java*.

“The *Papandayang*, situated at the western part of the district of *Cheribor*, in the province of *Sukapura*, was formerly one of the largest volcanoes in the island of *Java*; but the greatest part of it was swallowed up in the earth, after a short but very severe combustion in the year 1772. The account which has remained of this event asserts, that near midnight, between the 11th and 12th of August there was observed about the mountain an uncommonly luminous cloud, by which it appeared to be completely enveloped. The inhabitants as

* Since the period of authentic history, no great changes have taken place in the country round *Ætna*; but it appears from *Virgil*, as well as from a passage in *Strabo* before quoted, that an ancient tradition existed of the sudden separation of *Sicily* from *Italy*.

“Hæc loca, vi quondam et vastâ convulsâ ruinâ
Dissiluisse ferunt: cùm protenus utraque tellus
Una foret, venit medio vi pontus, et undis
Hesperium Siculo latus abscidit: arvaque et urbes
Littore diductas angusto interluit æstu.”

Æn. l. iii.

Probably this separation took place when *Ætna* emerged from the ocean: the occurrence of beds of limestone with shells upon its sides, proves that it was originally a submarine volcano.