

twenty-three feet, still maintaining their erect position, amid the extraordinary changes which they have undergone, and incontrovertibly proving that the relative level of the land and sea, on that part of the coast, has changed more than once since the christian era; each movement, both of subsidence and elevation, having exceeded twenty feet.* Yet there, at the present moment, are the remains of that temple—

“ Whose lonely columns stand sublime,
 Flinging their shadows from on high,
Like dials, which the wizard Time
 Had raised to count his ages by !” †

Professor Babbage attributes the tranquil elevation and depression of the temple, to the contraction and expansion of the strata on which it was built. The sources of volcanic action in the surrounding country are very numerous, and a hot spring still exists on the land-side of the ruins. The change of level is therefore easily accounted for, by supposing the temple to have been built on the surface when the rocks were expanded by the effects of a high temperature, and that they subsequently contracted by slow refrigeration. When this contraction had reached a certain point, a fresh accession of heat from the neighbouring volcano increased the temperature of the strata; which again expanded and raised the ruins to their present level. ‡

* Principles of Geology, vol. ii. p. 268.

† Moore.

‡ Appendix G.