

has no deep crater on its summit. There are indeed the outlines of the crater, but it is nearly filled up; while from the foot of this lunar mountain diverging streams of lava seem to flow in different directions, to the distance of six hundred miles. The longest known current of modern lava on the earth is in Iceland; it extends sixty miles; but the volcanoes in that island bear no proportion to those of the moon in magnitude.—*Mr. Bakewell.*

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B. Page 60.—THE LAKE OF THE SOLFATARA.—Its temperature was, in the winter, in the warmest parts, above 80 deg. of Fahrenheit, and it appears to be pretty constant; for I have found it to differ a few degrees only, in January, March, May, and the beginning of June; being nearly twenty degrees above the mean temperature of the atmosphere, it must therefore be supplied with heat from a subterraneous source. Kircher has detailed in his *Mundus Subterraneus* various wonders respecting this lake, most of which are unfounded, such as that it is unfathomable, that it has at the bottom the heat of boiling water, and that floating islands rise from the gulf. It must certainly be very difficult, or even impossible to fathom a source which rises with so much violence from a subterraneous excavation; and at a time when chemistry had made small progress, it was easy to mistake the disengagement of carbonic acid for an actual ebullition. The floating islands are real, but neither the Jesuit nor any of the writers who have since described this lake, have had a correct idea of their origin, which is exceedingly curious. The high temperature of this water, and the quantity of carbonic acid that it contains, render it peculiarly fitted to afford a pabulum or nourishment to vegetable life; the banks of travertine are every where covered with reeds, lichens, confervæ, and various kinds of aquatic vegetables. At the same time that the process of vegetable life is going on, the crystallization of the calcareous matter, which is every where deposited in consequence of the escape of carbonic acid, likewise proceeds, and gives a constant milkiness to what from its tint would otherwise be a blue fluid. So rapid is the vegetation, owing to the decomposition of the carbonic