

this was only a part of the sublime spectacle before us.

“On emerging from the darkness, occasioned by the smaller crater being hidden by the large one, as we passed round to the other side of the mountain, we found the whole scene illuminated by the river of lava, which gushed out of the valley formed by the craters and the hill on which we now stood. The fiery current was narrow at its source, apparently not more than eighteen inches in breadth; but it quickly widened, and soon divided into two streams, one of which was at least forty feet wide, and the other somewhat less: between them was a sort of island, below which they reunited into one broad river, which was at length lost sight of in the deep windings and ravines of the mountain.”\*

In an eruption witnessed by Sir W. Hamilton, jets of liquid lava, mingled with stones and scorizæ, were thrown up to a height of ten thousand feet. The streams of lava issue with great velocity, and are in a state of perfect fusion; but as they cool on the surface, they crack, and the matter becomes vesicular, or porous; at a considerable distance from their source, they resemble a heap of scorizæ, or cinders, from an iron foundry, rolling slowly along, and falling, with a rattling noise, one over the other.

14. VOLCANIC PRODUCTS OF VESUVIUS.—The cone of Vesuvius consists of concentric coatings of

\* From the Saturday Magazine.