

difficulty during which descent into the crater would have been practicable.

“Nor can I imagine a spectacle of more solemn grandeur than that presented in its interior, or conceive a spot better calculated to excite, in a superstitious age, that religious awe which caused the island to be considered sacred to Vulcan, and the various caverns below as the peculiar residence of the gods.”

#### VOLCANOES IN MODERATE ACTION.

Volcanoes are in the phase of moderate activity when they are in a state of prolonged but inconsiderable excitement. Under this class we may place the volcano of Popocatepetl, in Mexico, which was found in this phase by the discoverers of the country. Such also was the condition of Vesuvius from the commencement of this century to the year 1822.

Signior Maria Gemmellario has given, from a meteorological journal kept at Catania, a very interesting view of the successive changes of Mount Etna, at a period in which it was in the phase of moderate activity; and no description could give so accurate a conception of the ever-changing phenomena.

On the 9th of February, 1804, there was a sensible earthquake. Etna smoked ninety-seven days, but there was no eruption nor any thunder.

On the 3d of July, 1805, there was an earthquake. Etna smoked forty-seven days, and emitted flame twenty-eight days. There was an eruption in June, but no thunder.

There were earthquakes on the 27th of May and 10th of October, 1806. The mountain smoked forty-seven days, flamed seven, and detonated twenty-eight; little thunder.

On the 24th of February and 25th of November, 1807, there were earthquakes. Etna smoked fifty-nine days; little thunder.

In August, September, and December, 1808, earthquakes were frequent. Etna smoked twelve days, flamed 102, and often detonated. Thunder-storms were frequent.

From January to May, and during September and December, 1809, there were thirty-seven earthquakes. The most sensible shock was on the 27th of March, when the mountain ejected lava on the western side. This eruption lasted thirteen days, and part of the Bosco di Castiglione was in-