

When the lava ceased to flow, the crater was covered by a dense cloud of comminuted pumice, which enveloped it the four following days, during which time the summit of the mountain fell into the internal cavity. The surrounding country, to the distance of ten or twelve miles, was wrapped in a midnight darkness, and thunder-storms were awfully frequent. *The average depth of the sand which fell during this period, for a distance of three miles round Vesuvius, is said to have been fourteen inches and a half.*

But although this eruption was attended with phenomena of a most awful character, yet its effects are not to be compared with those which attended the activity of Tomboro, in Sumbawa, in the year 1815. The convulsions of Tomboro commenced on the 5th of April with loud rumbling sounds, which continued till the 7th of that month, when three columns of flame burst forth from near the top of the mountain. A short time after the lava began to flow, the mountain appeared as though it were a solid body of fire; but at eight o'clock, about an hour after the ejection of lava, it was obscured by a thick cloud of sand. Between nine and ten o'clock ashes fell, and a whirlwind arose which struck to the ground almost every house in the village of Sangar, and carried, with tremendous force, the lighter parts, uprooted the trees, and swept away both men and cattle in its fury. About midnight the explosions commenced, and continued with intense violence till the evening of the 11th instant without intermission. After this they moderated, but did not entirely cease till the 25th of July. Of all the villages round Tomboro, only one, Tempo, escaped destruction; and out of twelve thousand inhabitants, only twenty-six were saved.

But the effects of this eruption were not confined to a limited district. The fall of the ashes forty miles distant was so heavy, that the houses were considerably damaged, and in many instances rendered uninhabitable. In Java, three hundred miles distant, the detonations were so distinct, and so much resembled the discharge of artillery, that a detachment of soldiers were marched from Djocjocarta, under the supposition that there was an attack upon a neighbouring military post; and on the seashore the reports were mistaken for the guns of a vessel in distress, and boats were in two instances sent to give relief.

On the 6th the sun was, even at this distance, obscured,