

and there was every appearance of an approaching earthquake. On the 10th the noises were louder, and at Sumanap and Banynwangi the earth was violently shaken. Gresie and other districts more eastward were enveloped during the greater part of the 12th of April in indescribable darkness, but, as the clouds of ashes passed over and discharged themselves, light returned; but it was not till the 17th, when a shower of rain fell, that the atmosphere was cleared of its clouds of heated vapour and sand. The ashes were nine inches deep at Banynwangi.

The detonations of Tomboro were heard in Sumatra, 970 miles distant, and indeed in all the Molucca Islands; but so dreadful were its effects along the north and west of the peninsula, that but one solitary vestige of vegetable life was preserved.

We may take Etna as another example of volcanic activity in the phase of paroxysmal violence. This mountain is entirely composed of volcanic rocks, and rises in imposing grandeur to the height of 10,000 feet above the level of the sea. It is about one hundred and eighty miles in circumference, and is surrounded on every side by apparently small volcanic cones, though of no inconsiderable size. The earliest historical notice of this mountain is by Thucydides, who states that there were three eruptions previous to the Peloponnesian war, to one of which Pindar alludes in his first Pythian Ode. In the year 396 B. C., the volcano was again active; and, according to Diodorus Siculus, the Carthaginian army was stopped by the flowing lava when marching against Syracuse.

One of the most remarkable eruptions suffered by this mountain was that which occurred in the year 1669, which was so violent that fifteen towns and villages were destroyed, and the stream was so deep that the lava flowed over the walls of Catania, sixty feet in height, and destroyed a part of the city. But the most singular circumstance connected with this eruption was the formation of a number of extensive fissures, which appeared as though filled with intumescent rock. At the very commencement of the eruption one was formed in the plain of St. Lio, twelve miles in length and six feet broad, ejecting a vivid flame, and shortly after five others were opened. The town of Nicolosi, situated twenty miles from the summit of Etna, was destroyed by earthquake, and