

near the place where it stood two gulfs were formed, from which so large a quantity of sand and scorix was thrown, that a cone called Mount Rossi, four hundred and fifty feet high, was produced in about three months.

We may, perhaps, introduce one other example of the effects produced by volcanoes in the condition of paroxysmal violence. Hecla has been long celebrated for the intensity and continuance of its eruptions. The island in which it is situated is not unfrequently shaken from its centre to its shores with violent earthquakes, and new islands are often formed upon its coasts, some of them sinking beneath the level of the water as quickly as they were formed, and others continuing for so many years as to give expectation of their permanence. Hecla has been more than twenty times in a state of eruption during the last eight hundred years, and, when excited, its devastating fury is not easily appeased. But Iceland is, as it were, the covering of one of the principal Plutonian workshops, and its mountains are the chimneys of ever active forges.

If we could mention one year as being more distinguished than any other for the violence of the volcanic force in Iceland, we might direct the attention of the reader to the year 1783. In the month of May a submarine volcano was formed in latitude  $63^{\circ} 25'$  north, and longitude  $23^{\circ} 44'$  west, about thirty miles southwest of Reykianas. From the crater of this island, so large a quantity of pumice was ejected, that the ocean was completely covered with it for a distance of more than one hundred and thirty miles; but, after a short time, the island sank beneath the level of the ocean, and only a rocky reef, from five to thirty fathoms beneath the water, was left as the evidence of the prior existence of the island, and the activity of the volcanic force. On the 11th of June, Skaptár Jokul, a volcanic mountain that has often spread desolation over the surrounding country, ejected a considerable torrent of lava, which, flowing into the river Skapta, dried it up, and overflowed the fields beyond it, although in some places the bed was more than six hundred feet deep and nearly two hundred feet wide. A deep lake between Skaptardal and Aa was filled with the lava, and a subsequent current "was precipitated down a tremendous cataract called Stapafos, where it filled a profound abyss which that great waterfall had been hollowing out for ages, and after this the fiery current again continued its course."

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