

headlong ; innumerable chinks and crevasses traversed the bulk of the mountain, and penetrated it from side to side, so as to alarm men's minds with the idea that the entire mass would sink into chaos ; the whole surface of the soil was changed in configuration. The territory of Santa-Cristina, intersected likewise by a great number of gorges and valleys, with steep declivities, experienced the same accidents as that of Oppido.

It was in the territories of Terranova, Oppido, and Santa-Cristina, the earthquake-shocks achieved the most destructive ravages, and produced the most extraordinary effects ; whence we may infer that the focus of the shocks of the 5th of February was seated beneath this portion of the great Calabrian plain.

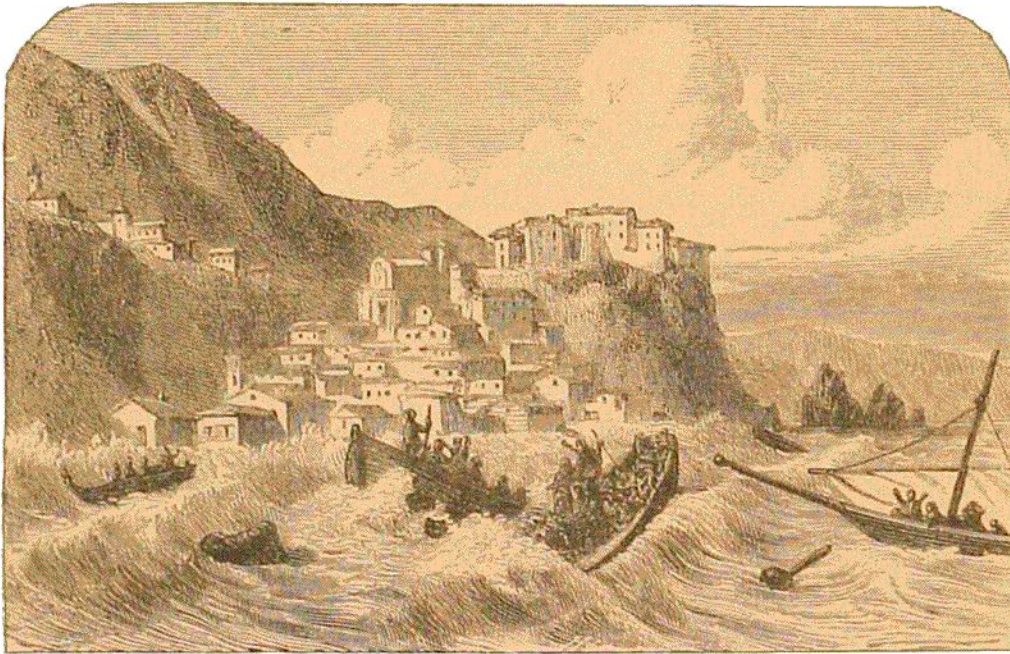


FIG. 134.—WRECK OFF THE COAST OF SCYLLA, IN THE STRAIT OF MESSINA (FEBRUARY 5, 1783).

Who has not heard of the famous rock of Scylla, situated on the coast of the Strait of Messina, and the object of so much exaggerated dread and so many fabulous traditions in the ancient world ?

[Virgil's picturesque description will be familiar to our readers :—

“ Dextra Scyllam latus, lævum implacata Charybdis
Obsidet, atque imo barathri ter gurgite vastos
Sorbet in abruptum fluctus, rursusque sub auras
Erigit alternos, et sidera verberat unda.
At Scyllam cæcis cohibet spelunca latebris,
Ora exsertantem et naves in saxa trahentem.
Prima hominis facies, et pulchro pectore virgo
Pube tenus ; postrema immani corpore pistris,
Delphinum caudas utero commissa luporum.”

Aeneid, iii. 420, et seq.

We subjoin Professor Conington's version :—

“ There Scylla guards the right-hand coast :
The left is fell Charybdis' post ;
Thrice from the lowest gulf she draws
The water down her giant jaws,