

vapours must have been rendered difficult, and we may almost credit the statement of the poets that no birds durst fly across it.

" O'er that dread space no flying thing
Unjeopardied could ply its wing;
Such noisome exhalations rise
From out its darkness to the skies."*

Hence it was supposed to derive its Greek name 'Αόρνος from ἀ and ὄρνις, the absence of birds. But the engineering works of Agrippa, intended to unite Lakes Avernus and the Lucrine with the sea, by cutting down the forests and clearing the ground, opened up fresh channels of egress to the noxious vapours, and the place is now deprived of all its terrors.

The Lake of Fusaro, the *Palus Acherusia* of the poets, is also supposed to be the crater of an extinct volcano. "It is a black volcanic-looking pool of water, about a league in circumference, which lies between the site of the Lucrine lake and the ruins of the town of Cumæ, and is still extant, being devoted to the highly profitable art of oyster-farming, and yielding from this source an annual revenue of about twelve hundred pounds."† In 1838 it emitted such quantities of mephitic gases that the oysters were all destroyed.

The entire northern shore of the Bay of Baiæ, the *Phlegræi Campi* of the ancients, was a volcanic district, subjected to repeated and alarming convulsions, which only ceased when the igneous forces were recalled to their main channel, and Vesuvius commenced that career of activity which has continued down to our own times.

VESUVIUS,‡ or *Monte Vesuvio* (in Greek, Οὐεσούϊος), is situated on the shore of the gulf called the Crater or Bay of Naples, from which

* [Virgil, "Æneid," vi. 239, *et sqq.*]

† ["Cornhill Magazine," xi. 53.]

‡ ["If we suppose the name of Vesuvius to have been imposed by early Greek settlers, ΣΒΕ, the radical of several words implying *extinction*, offers itself for adoption. In this case the prefix being taken as negative, the meaning of the word is 'unextinguished;' and it would lead us to accept as probable some knowledge or tradition of habitual or frequent eruptions in pre-historic times. If, on the other hand, a Phœnician origin be preferred, and Vo-Sever—the place of fire—be thought probable, the same conclusion as to the fact of very ancient knowledge of earlier volcanic violence may be maintained."—PROFESSOR PHILLIPS, "Vesuvius," pp. 8, 9.]