



FIG. 144.—TORRE DEL GRECO IN 1801.

when seven torrents of lava poured simultaneously from the crater, and overwhelmed several villages on the flanks and at the foot of the mountain. Among others, Resina, partly built over the ancient site of Herculaneum, was destroyed. "Great floods of mud," remarks Lyell, "were as destructive as the lava itself, no uncommon occurrence during these catastrophes; for such is the violence of rains produced by the evolutions of aqueous vapour, that torrents of water descend the cone, and becoming charged with impalpable volcanic dust, and rolling along loose ashes, acquire sufficient consistency to deserve their ordinary appellation of 'aqueous lava.'"

Torre del Greco and part of Portici were swept away by this catastrophe, in which eighteen thousand persons are said to have perished. The eruption did not entirely cease until February 1632, when it was found that the cone had so decreased in height as to be 1530 feet lower than Monte Somma.

The thirteenth eruption took place in July 1660.

The fourteenth, in August 1682.

The fifteenth, March 12, 1694.

The sixteenth, September 1696, when a portion of the cone was blown away on the side next Torre del Greco.