a height of 1200 feet, and described, as they swept over the heads of Hoffmann and his companions, parabolic curves of fire.

Immediately after each of these explosions, the lava retired into the bottom of the crater, which yawned like a black and awful gulf; but speedily its glittering surface rose again, and recommenced its ordinary rhythmic play.

To the south of the Lipari Islands, and close to the eastern coast of Sicily, lies the Cyclopean group, remarkable for their precipitous cliffs of basalt, arranged in irregular rows of huge Titanic pillars. Though now detached, these islets must at one period have formed an unbroken stratum: they are covered with a bed of marl, which seems evidently to have extended in a continuous mass from one to the other. This circumstance, remarks Dr. Daubeny,* and their general compactness, may be accepted as proofs that the volcanic convulsions to which their formation is due took place under the surface of the water.

We must now carry the reader far away from the "blue Mediterranean" and the "genial South" to the bleak inhospitable regions of the Arctic Pole. The northernmost of the volcanoes of Europe is found in

THE ISLAND OF JAN MAYEN.

This island, so named from its discoverer,† lies off the coast of Greenland, in a wild and dreary sea, where its snow-shrouded cone may occasionally be seen emerging, like a silver spire, from the clouds and mists that gather round its rugged flanks and wave-worn base. It was visited in 1817 by Captain (afterwards Dr.) Scoresby, who discovered on its summit a colossal crater, about 2000 feet in diameter, and 500 feet in depth. He also explored another volcano, called Esk, whose height he computed at 1500 feet. In 1856, Lord Dufferin coasted the island in his yacht *The Foam*, and we are indebted to him for the following graphic description of its romantic aspect.‡

* [Dr. Daubeny, "On Volcanoes," p. 202.]

† [A Dutch Navigator, who discovered it in 1611.]

‡ [Lord Dufferin, "Letters from High Latitudes," p. 140.]