

colossal power in 1845. On the 1st of September the inhabitants were alarmed by a severe earthquake, followed by awful subterranean noises. Next day, about noon, two new mouths suddenly opened in the sides of the volcano, and rolled forth two huge rivers of incandescent lava, which descended over the barren heaths and scanty pasturage, scorching and destroying all they touched. The mountain was obscured by the thick vapours and clouds of ashes which were almost constantly ejected. The neighbouring rivers grew so hot that the fish in them were killed, and it became impossible to cross them even on horseback.

A fortnight later, the commotion was renewed. It was accompanied by reports and discharges, which echoed over the whole island, and lasted for two-and-twenty hours. Again two new craters were opened, one on the southern, the other on the eastern side of the cone; and the lava ejected from these descended a distance of upwards of twenty-two miles. At a point three thousand yards from its origin the "river of fire" was a mile in width, and forty to fifty feet in depth. The havoc committed by it was necessarily very great.

On the 12th of October, a fresh stream burst forth from the southern crater, and accumulated at the base of the mountain in a mass of scorïæ, slag, and fused materials, from 40 to 60 feet in height. At the same time, from each of the three recently opened mouths issued a vast column of dust, ashes, and vapour.

During the remainder of 1845, and for a considerable part of 1846, the activity of the mountain continued, though not on so formidable a scale, until it finally terminated, in the October of the latter year, with an explosion of aggravated fury, volumes of ashes and scorïæ being ejected to an immense height, while, kindling with the glare of the incandescent lava within, they shone from a distance like Cyclopean pillars of fire.

Of the force of the explosions, an idea may be formed from a consideration of the fact that a block of pumice weighing nearly half a ton was hurled to a distance of five miles. The ice and snow