

In Lancerota a volcano opened as recently as August 1824, and ejected a quantity of matter, which in four-and-twenty hours accumulated so as to form a hill of considerable proportions.

Its eruptions in the first half of the eighteenth century were, however, on a far more formidable scale. They began on the 1st of September 1730, and lasted for more than six years. First, a great chasm opened in the earth, and threw up a vast amount of volcanic matter. A few days later, from a second mouth poured forth an overwhelming river of lava. From the depths of this river, on the 7th of September, rose up a huge and solid rock, dividing the current into two channels, one of which struck towards, and inundated, the large and thriving town of Santa Catalina. Increasing in volume, and constantly rolling forward, the lava at length advanced into the sea, roaring frightfully. Then, after an interval of repose, three new craters opened on the site of ruined Santa Catalina, and ejected great quantities of stones, ashes, and sand.

A singular occurrence marked the 28th of October; all the cattle of the island, we are told, perished on that one fatal day; choked by the noisome vapours which rose from the ground, and, being condensed in the atmosphere, fell in a "deadly rain."

On the 10th of January 1731 a high hill was thrown up, but a few days afterwards it subsided into the crater which had cast it forth, and which then poured out its fury in streams of hissing lava.

New lava-ejecting cones were afterwards created until their number amounted to about thirty, and various phenomena of volcanic action were repeated on a more or less terrible scale until 1736.

The cones of eruption thus strangely formed were all situated, according to Leopold von Buch, in a right line nearly due east and west; the highest rising 600 feet above its base, and 1378 feet above the sea-level. On its summit is a precipitous crater, so rugged and dark and sulphurous, that it might have furnished Dante with the conception of a *bocca del inferno*; and to the westward spreads a bleak, desolate, treeless sheet of black lava, covering the surface of the ground for three square miles.