

ing point in the volcanic peak of Demavend, near Tehrân, which, though situated ninety miles inland, is a landmark to sailors on the Caspian.

The Persian province of Azerbijan, the "fire-country" of Zoroaster, is a volcanic table-land, crowned by the volcanic cone of the Koh Salavan.

In the table-land of Eastern Asia a solitary instance of volcanic force is found at a distance of 1500 miles from the sea, in the volcanic chain of the Thian-Tchan.

Besides the two active volcanoes of the Pe-shan and the Ho-tcheou in the chain itself, separated from each other by an interval of 650 miles with a *solfatara* between them, it is the centre of a very extensive "land of fire," extending northward to the Altaï Mountains, and with many points of connection between the atmosphere and the interior of the earth by solfataras, hot springs, and sulphurous vapours. No active volcanoes, in the ordinary sense of the term, are known to exist in China; but there are numerous fire-hills and fire-springs; the latter are described as real Artesian wells, five or six inches wide, and from 1500 to 3000 feet deep. The water which bubbles up from some of these contain large deposits of chloride of sodium (common salt); while from others gases issue, which, if ignited, break forth into great jets of flame with a noise of thunder.

ASIATIC ISLANDS.

JAVA.

There is no island in Asia—nay, there is not an island in the whole world—where the volcanic forces are manifested on so colossal a scale as in Java. As Michelet says, it is dowered with fire. Notwithstanding its comparatively small dimensions, it possesses as many volcanoes as all America, and each more terrible than Etna. Think, also, of its liquid volcano; of that vein of sombre azure—the *Black River* of the Japanese—which, after bathing the island's fertile shores, strikes away towards the North Pole, warming the seas with its waters, salter than human blood.