

villages were destroyed. The volcano, on this occasion, ejected vast streams of lava, torrents of water, and incalculable quantities of stones and ashes, sand and mud.

A violent eruption occurred in the island of Machian in 1646, when the mountain was rent in twain from summit to base. It has ever since continued to be two mountains.

In 1693 an eruption of the volcano of Sorea took place on a gigantic scale; the cone gradually crumbling down into a vast crater, which, converted into a lake of fire, spread over nearly half of the entire island.

An eruption of a volcano in the island of Banda, in November 1835, was accompanied by a severe earthquake.

#### THE NORTHERN ISLANDS.

The volcanic chain is continued from the Moluccas to the north through the Philippine Islands and Formosa. It then strikes to the north-east, and traverses Loo-Choo, the Japanese Islands—where the most remarkable volcano is Fusi-Yama, 11,000 feet in height—the Kurile and Aleutian Islands, to Kamtschatka. In the Kurile Islands there are eighteen vents, and the submarine eruptions in the beginning of the present century raised two islands; one four miles in circuit, and the other 3000 feet in height.

Thus, says Mrs. Somerville,\* some long rent in the earth has extended from the Tropics to the gelid seas of Okhotsk, probably connected with the peninsula of Kamtschatka: a new one begins to the east of the latter in the Aleutian Islands, which are of the most barren and desolate aspect, perpetually beaten by the surge of a restless ocean, and bristled by the cones of twenty-four volcanoes; they sweep in a half-moon round Behring's Sea till they join the volcanic peninsula of Russian America.

We must now turn to the South Pacific Ocean, where signs of great internal activity are visible in

\* Mrs. Somerville, "Physical Geography," i. 255.