

POLYNESIAN ISLANDS.

Several of the other islands in the Pacific are of a volcanic character. Volcanoes exist among the *Marquesas* group, whose principal formation is trachyte: in the *Society Islands* the central volcano, Tobreonou, is as lofty as Etna; in the *Friendly Islands* the volcano of Tofua is described as continually in eruption. If we

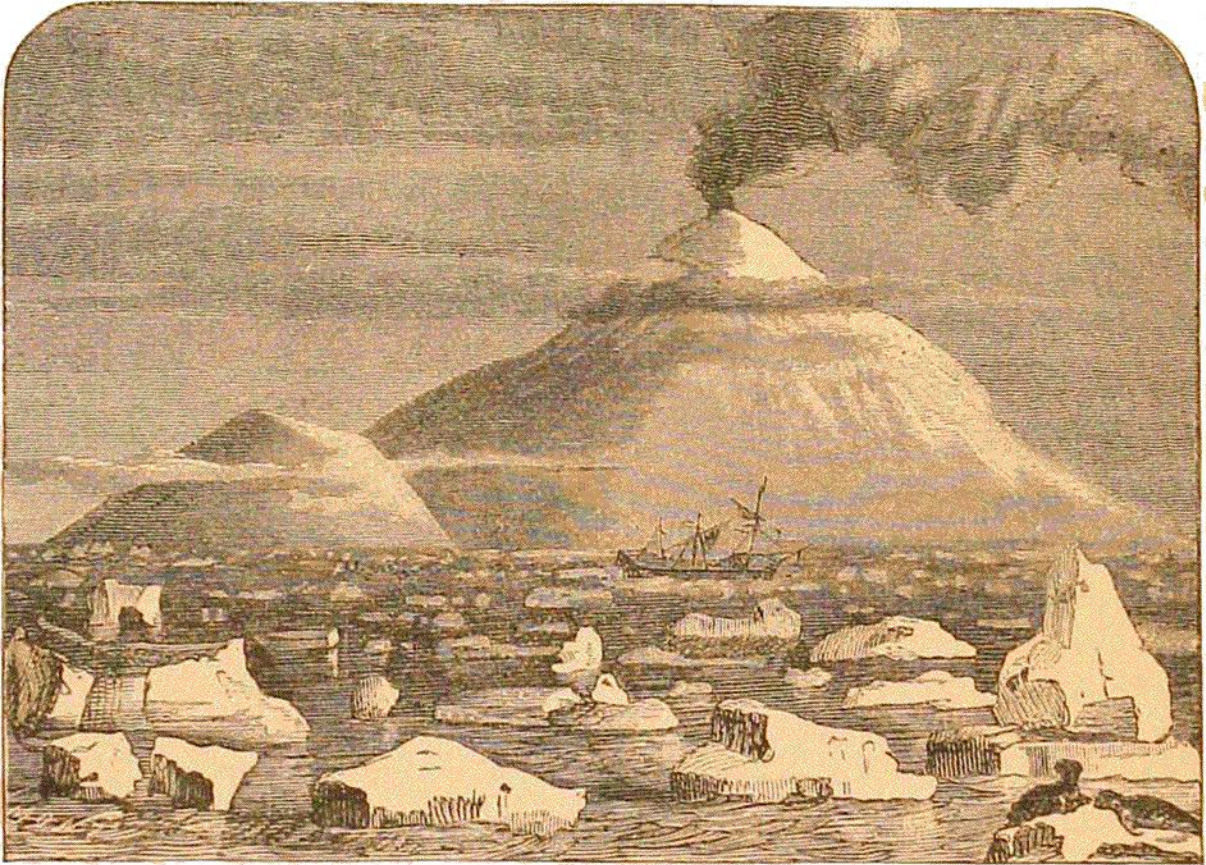


FIG. 150.—MOUNT EREBUS.

voyage further south we shall find two “mountains of fire” in the dreary ice-deserts which prevent the approach of man to the Antarctic Pole. They were discovered by Sir James Ross in 1841, and named after his two famous discovery ships, the *Erebus* and the *Terror*. Mount Erebus (lat. $77^{\circ} 32' S.$) is about 12,000 feet high. Its sides are densely covered with snow and ice, which mantle up to the very edge of the huge crater, whence are continually ascending vast clouds of volcanic smoke to an estimated height of 2200 feet.
