

We say one of its summits, for Pichincha has four. The southern, named *Ruas* ("Father") Pichincha, contains the crater of eruption.

Pichincha was ascended by Humboldt. He approached the very edge of the crater, and saw the curdling lava boiling in the black depths of the dread abyss. Misdirected by his guides, he had advanced, in the midst of a thick fog, to within a few feet from the rapid slope which descends into the crater, and with difficulty saved himself from plunging headlong into the burning, seething gulf.

Antisana is the only one of the great American volcanoes which pours forth lava. Its paroxysms were frequent between 1590 and 1718, but since the latter date it has shown no signs of activity. At an elevation of about 13,600 feet above the sea lies a plain, which was formerly the bed of a considerable lake, now reduced to very confined limits. From the centre rises the snow-clad dome, which a series of jagged and abrupt peaks connects with a truncated cone of eruption on the north side. The ejected lavas have accumulated at the foot of the mountain in massive basaltic walls.

Sangay, which exceeds 18,000 feet in absolute elevation, has been in almost continual activity since 1728. Its eruptions are accompanied by loud detonations, which roll afar in the distance like peals of thunder, and have been heard as far as Payta, on the Peruvian coast. The smoke-clouds emitted from the crater are of different colours; sometimes red, sometimes gray, and sometimes orange. Cinders, scoriæ, and stones are also ejected in very considerable quantities, and, in some parts, are piled up in beds of from 300 to 400 feet in thickness.

Among the Chilian Andes we find Raneagua and Chillan in a condition of almost constant restlessness. The latter broke out into eruption in November 1864, when a new crater was formed, and the snowy summit of the cone thickly encrusted with fresh volcanic deposit.

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