

During the first six days, the quantity of lava issuing from the fissure of Monte Frumento was estimated at 117 cubic yards a second. In the vicinity of the outlet, the speed of the current was not less than twenty feet a minute; but lower down the velocity was diminished. On the second of February, the principal current had traveled three miles. It was from 900 to 1,600 feet wide and 49 feet deep. Here it plunged like a cataract into a deep gorge. "It was a magnificent spectacle, especially during the night, to see this sheet of molten matter dazzling red like liquid iron, making its way in a thin layer, from the heaps of brown scoriæ which had gradually accumulated above; then carrying with it the more solid lumps which dashed one against the other with a metallic noise, it fell over into the ravine only to rebound in stars of fire." In a few days, the ravine was filled and the lava stood 160 feet deep. From this the flow continued east toward Mascali, filling to its brink, on the way, the winding gorge of the dried up rivulet. By the middle of February, the river of fire was more than six miles long, and its flow was more and more slackened by incasement in a crust of cooled material. Through this, it continually burst, in front and on the sides, and new spurts darted off for short distances in various directions, giving to the solidified stream an aspect characteristically rough. Suddenly one of the outbursts far up the stream, resulted in a new river, which flowed toward the plains of *Lingua grossa*, swallowing up thousands of trees. The destructive action was not much longer continued, but months after the commencement of the eruption, the molten fluid within the incrustated river continued to burst forth in slowly advancing and overlapping outflows, leaving an exterior black and rough beyond description.

This eruption may serve to illustrate the volume of molten lava sometimes emitted from a volcano. Perhaps a more striking example of volume is furnished by the volcano of Coseguina, a hillock about 500 feet high on a promontory to the south of the Bay of Fonseca in Central America. The ashes thrown into the upper atmosphere spread out in a dark