

concealment.<sup>1</sup> As the result of these subterranean commotions, new mountains are raised and new islands are placed in the midst of the sea. "Who can doubt, for instance," the philosopher asks, "that wind gave birth to Thera and Therasia, and to the younger island which even in our own time we have seen spring up in the Aegean sea?"

Another work of Seneca's time deserves mention here—the voluminous *Natural History* of the Elder Pliny, in which so vast a mass of miscellaneous notes has been compiled regarding the plants, animals, and minerals known to the ancients, and the earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, inundations and other natural events which had happened within the times of history.<sup>2</sup> Though rather a chronicler of other men's opinions and experiences than himself an original observer, he must have been imbued with a keen interest in every department of Nature, as he certainly was endowed with portentous and unwearied industry in gathering together all the information that could be ascertained from every source. The graphic picture which we have of him in his nephew's letters to Tacitus shows him as the eager and enthusiastic naturalist, keenly interested in every phenomenon, ready with his tablets to make a note of all that he saw or heard or read, and strictly methodical and austerely temperate in his habits of

<sup>1</sup> Book v. xiv. ; ii. x. 4.

<sup>2</sup> Those who are interested in such matters will find a useful compendium of Pliny's remarks on minerals, rocks, earthquakes and volcanoes in Dr. H. O. Lenz's *Mineralogie der Alten Griechen und Römer*, Gotha, 1861.