

melted some grease fastened at the end of the sounding line. The pilot observed also on that side that smoke issued from a small lake bounded by a sand bank. This island is almost round and high enough to be perceived at the distance of seven or eight leagues in clear weather.

“ It has since been learnt from a letter of M. Adrian, French consul in the island of St. Michael, dated March 1722, that the new island had considerably diminished, that it was almost level with the water, and there was every appearance it would not last long.”

It is therefore by these, and a great number of other facts of a similar nature, very evident that inflammable matters are enclosed in the earth under the bottom of the sea, and that they sometimes cause violent explosions. The places where this happens might be termed marine volcanos, and which differ from common volcanos only by the shortness of the duration of their effects; for the fire having opened itself a passage, the water must penetrate therein and extinguish it. The elevation of new islands must consequently leave a void space which the water would shortly occupy, and this new earth, which is only composed of matters thrown out
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