

forty-five thousand human beings were thus awfully sent into eternity.

In 1815, the island of Sumbawa, at the eastern end of Java, was the scene of volcanic devastation to a most dreadful extent. The eruptions continued for three months. Great tracts of land were buried under the lava. "Violent whirlwinds carried up men, horses, cattle, and whatever else came within their influence, into the air; tore up the largest trees by the roots, and covered the whole sea with floating timber."\* The terrible sound of the explosions was heard over a range of 1500 miles. The ashes ejected reached 200 and 300 miles in distance, covering the sea for some miles with pumice and cinders to the thickness of two feet, and making the day darker than the thickest night. "Out of a population of 12,000, only twenty-six individuals survived on the island."†

Seven years afterwards, in the same island, an eruption took place of the mountain Galungoon, which, with its deluges of rain and scalding mud, destroyed 114 villages and 4000 persons.

Thus the instruments of change are incessantly at work, in modifying and altering the surface of the planet which the adorable Creator has appointed for our dwelling-place, in this incipient state of being. The examination of the earth affords us an insight into its state and many of the changes through which it has passed, before it assumed its present condition; and spreads before us volumes of evidence that those changes have been produced by the same instrumental causes that we see working at the present moment. The intensity has varied: different states or circumstances have augmented or diminished their resulting forces; but the causality, mediate as well as primary, has been of the same kind; and the variations

\* Lyell's Princip. Geol. II. 200; from Sir T. S. Raffles's Java. † Ib.