

of the Lipari Isles ; the Devil's Mouth, in the Lake of Nicaragua ; and that in the Isle of Bourbon.

Stromboli has been in a state of constant activity for more than two thousand years, and is a good type of this class. Lava seldom overflows its crater, but large masses of burning rocks and scorix are incessantly ejected in a perpendicular direction. This phenomenon, accompanied by a loud explosion, occurs every seven or eight minutes, of which fact we are informed by Pliny, as well as by modern travellers.

Dolomieu examined this interesting mountain, and has given the following description of its eruptions :—" The inflamed crater is on the northwestern part of the isle, on the side of the mountain. I saw it dart during the night, at regular intervals of seven or eight minutes, ignited stones, which rose to the height of more than a hundred feet, forming rays a little divergent, but of which the greater quantity fell back into the crater, while others rolled even to the sea."

On the following day he ascended an eminence above the crater, from which he obtained a still more interesting view. "The crater," he says, "is very small ; I do not think it exceeds fifty paces in diameter, having the form of a funnel terminating in a point. During all the time I observed it, the eruptions succeeded with the same regularity as during the preceding night. The approach of the eruption is not announced by any noise or dull murmur in the interior of the mountain, and it is always with surprise that one sees the stones darted into the air. There are times when the eruption is more precipitate and violent, and stones describing more divergent rays are thrown into the sea at a considerable distance."

It has been stated by Dolomieu, Hamilton, and Scropé, on the authority of the islanders, that during the winter seasons the eruptions are far more violent than in summer, and that atmospheric changes may be generally predicted from the appearance of the crater. Sometimes during the storms of winter the cone is split, and large currents of lava are discharged.

In the Island of Volcano there is a crater which at some former period must have been active, and still emits gaseous vapours, which prove the continued existence of the volcanic cause. "The operations of this volcano," says Dr. Daubeny, "exhibit perhaps the nearest approximation to a state of