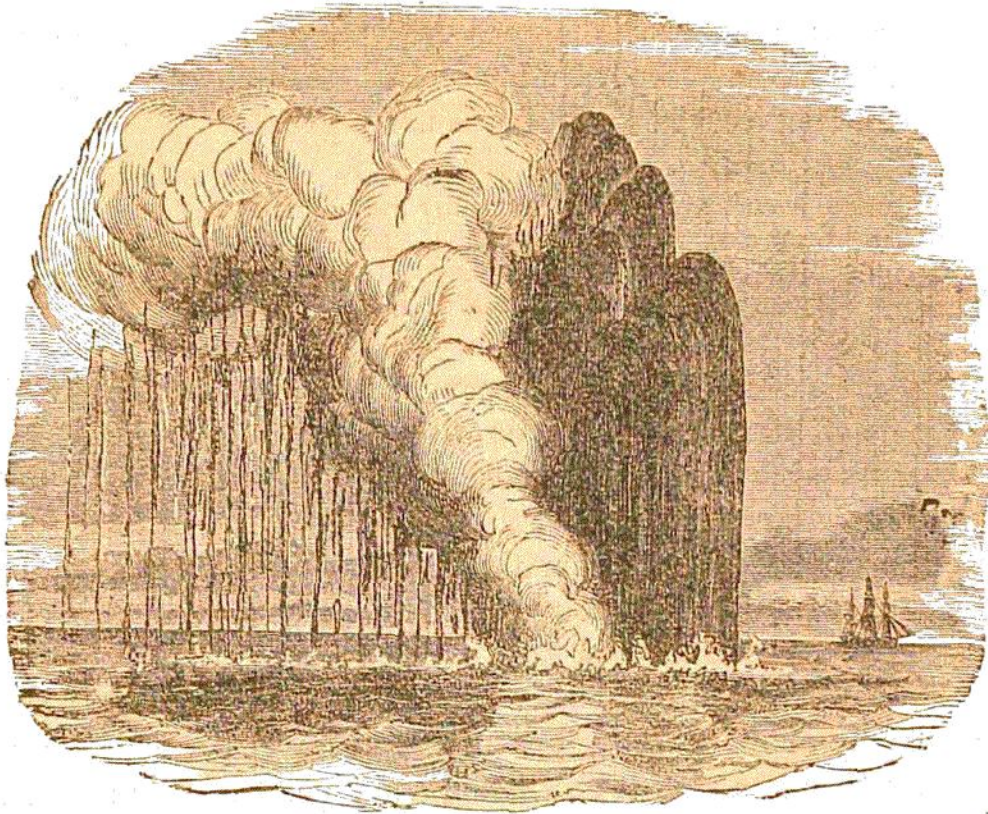


Fig. 120.

*Submarina Volcano (Sabrina).*

tirely, the result of volcanic action; and to be composed chiefly of lava and rocks upheaved by this agency, such as sandstone and limestone. Examples may be found in the Sandwich Islands, of which Hawaii, the largest, contains 4,000 square miles of surface, and rises 18,000 feet above the ocean; in Teneriffe, 13,000 feet high; in Iceland, Sicily, Bourbon, St. Helena, the Madeira, and Faroe Islands; and a great part of Java, Sumatra, Celebes, Japan, etc.

*Character of Molten Lava.*—Lava in general is not very thoroughly melted; so that when it moves in a current over the country, its sides form walls of considerable height, and a crust soon forms over its surface, which serves still more to prevent its spreading out laterally. It is kept in a semi-fluid state by the water which it incloses, and which is prevented from escaping by the hard crust.

Hence a lava current may be deflected from its course by breaking away its crust on one side; and in this way it has sometimes been turned away from towns that were threatened by it. In one instance, the inhabitants of Catania attacked a lava current and turned it towards Paterno, whose inhabitants took up arms and arrested the operation.