

Thrice sends it foaming back to day,  
 And deluges the heaven with spray.  
 But Scylla crouches in the gloom  
 Deep in a cavern's monstrous womb ;  
 Thence darts her ravening mouth, and drags  
 The helpless vessels on the crags.  
 Above she shows a human face,  
 And breasts resembling maiden grace :  
 Below, 'tis all a hideous whale,  
 Wolf's belly linked to fish's tail."

The rock, or promontory, invested with so many imaginary horrors, juts out boldly into the sea nearly at the entrance of the Sicilian Strait, which is here 6047 yards in width.\* It is united to the mainland by a narrow isthmus, and thus forms on either side a small but sheltered bay.]

From this famous rock the convulsions of 1783 tore away enormous masses, which crushed in their downfall numerous villas and gardens.

After the shock of the 5th of February, the prince of Scylla had persuaded a great number of his vassals to quit the shore, and take refuge on board the fishing-boats, to escape a new disaster. The prince himself embarked in one of them. Towards midnight, while the weary landmen lay asleep at the bottom of the boats, a second shock, agitating the ground, detached a cliff from the neighbouring mountain. Immediately afterwards the sea suddenly rose—one might almost say, leaped—a height of twenty feet, rushed headlong upon the beach, and swept everything before it. Then it retired, to return again, after a pause, with even greater violence. All the fishing-boats went to the bottom, or were wrecked upon the shore ; many were carried a considerable distance inland. The aged prince of Scylla perished, with 1430 Calabrese.

We need not extend any further this painful enumeration, but shall content ourselves with remarking that, throughout an area of ten leagues in length by six in breadth comprised between the river Metramo, the sea, and the Apennines, there remained not a single edifice entire, nor a rood of land which had not changed its configuration or position, or suffered considerable damage.

A few feebler shocks followed the great convulsion of the 5th of February. On the 28th of March, a formidable tremor shattered anew the ill fated Calabria. The centre of this last disturbance was removed towards the north ; it appeared to be seated under the Apennines. Upper Calabria and the provinces of the Neapolitan kingdom experienced the recoil. On both sides of the Apennines the country was devastated. This later earthquake was preceded by a subterranean noise like a clap of thunder, which was repeated at each shock. The movements of the soil were very complicated ; rotations and undulations took place, as on the 5th of February, interrupted by violent effects from above to below.

We shall not enumerate all the towns and hamlets which were demolished or

\* [Rear-Admiral Smyth, " Sicily," p. 108.]