

mantled with scoriæ and ashes—and only endurable to the eye when buried, as is the case for several months of the year, in glittering snow. This snow is, we are told, of the highest importance to the population of Sicily, Malta, and even of Barbary, to whom, during the



FIG. 138.—ETNA, SEEN FROM CATANIA.

burning summer-days, ices and iced drinks are among the necessaries of life. The exhaustion of the stock has frequently been the cause of serious disturbances; and, on one occasion, the governor of Catania was compelled to offer a large reward to whomsoever should discover a fresh supply.* Happily, a bed of snow was found underlying a torrent of ancient lava.

Among the peculiar features of Mount Etna may be mentioned its

* [Bartlett, "Pictures from Sicily," p. 148.]