

white-hot glaring ribbon of molten lava glided languidly down the mountain at our side, and before us was the flashing of the inner fire upon the cloud of vapour overhanging the abyss. Take all these together, and the scene is indeed rather different from what you picture to yourself as you calmly read in your newspaper that Vesuvius is once again in a state of eruption."

Our attention must next be directed to the volcanoes of—

THE LIPARI AND CYCLOPEAN ISLANDS.

The *Lipari Islands* consist of seven principal islands, and several inconsiderable islets. They lie between Sicily and Calabria, to the south-east of Ischia, and are all of volcanic character. The seven largest are:—Lipari (anc. *Lipara*), Vulcano (anc. *Hiera*), Stromboli (anc. *Strongyle*), Salina (anc. *Didyme*), Feliardi (anc. *Phænicusa*), Alicudi (anc. *Ericusa*), and Panaria (anc. *Euonymus*). Of these, Stromboli and Vulcano are active volcanoes.*

In ancient times, contrary to what is now the case, the eruptions of Vulcano appear to have been both more frequent and more violent than those of Stromboli. Hence the former was fabled to be the residence of Vulcan, and its subterranean noises were ascribed to the forges and hammers of the god and his workmen—the Cyclops. So Virgil tells us, in a peculiarly animated passage:—†

"Fast by Æolian Liparè
And fair Sicania's coast,
An island rises from the sea
With smoking rocks embossed;
Beneath, a cavern drear and vast,
Hollowed by Cyclopean blast,
Rings with unearthly sound;
Bruised anvils clang their thunder-peal,
Hot hissing glows the Chalyb steel,
And fiery vapour fierce and fast
Pants up from underground;
The centre this of Vulcan's toil,
And Vulcan's name adorns the soil.
Here finds he, as he makes descent,
The Cyclops o'er their labours bent. . . .
Some make the windy bellows heave,
Now give forth air, and now receive;

* [Admiral Smyth, "Sicily," c. vii., pp. 274–278; Dr. Daubeny, "On Volcanoes," pp. 245–263.]

† [Virgil, "Æneid," viii. 418, *et seq.* (Professor Conington's translation).]