

It should be noted, as an unusual circumstance, that Jorullo is 120 miles distant from the sea, and 80 miles from the nearest volcano.

The grandest of the Mexican volcanoes is, however, Popocatepetl, 17,850 feet in altitude, which, since the epoch of the conquest of Mexico by Cortez, has given few indications of activity. Its crater is a vast circular basin, whose perpendicular sides are in some parts of a jet black, in others of a rose pink.

Orizaba has enjoyed a profound repose since 1560. It was



FIG. 157.—THE VOLCANO OF JORULLO, IN MEXICO.

ascended in 1866 by Baron Muller, who likens its crater to the gloomy portals of Erebus.

In Lower California there are several volcanoes, of whose history, however, nothing is known. That of Mount St. Elias exceeds 17,000 feet in height.

Several of the West Indian Islands are of volcanic origin, and not a few contain active volcanoes. The whole region of the Mexican Gulf seems peculiarly affected by the earth's internal fires, and is the