

nature of the physical geography during the time of the volcanic eruptions already mentioned? To me it seems to have been somewhat of this sort.

On the margin of the ancient land, or at some distance therefrom, volcanic eruptions took place in the sea-bottom somewhat of the nature of that which in 1831 took place in the Mediterranean between the islands of Pantellaria and the south-west coast of Sicily. This eruption was preceded by an earthquake on June 28, and on July 10 John Corrao from his ship saw a column of water 60 feet high and 800 yards in circumference spout into the air, succeeded by dense steam, which rose to a height of 1,800 feet. On the 18th the same mariner found an island twelve feet high, from the crater of which immense columns of steam and volcanic ashes were being ejected, 'the sea around being covered with floating cinders and dead fish.'¹ The eruption continued into August, when, by the ejection of what is often called volcanic ashes, viz., pumice, scorix, and lapilli, on the 4th of that month the island was said to have been more than 200 feet in height and 3 miles in circumference. From that time it gradually decreased in size, owing to the action of the waves, and towards the close of the year the island had been destroyed and disappeared, leaving only a reef beneath the sea with a black rock in the centre, from 9 to 11 feet under water, and which probably marked the position of the funnel of the short-lived volcano. Before the eruption took place it so happened that Captain (afterwards Admiral) W. H. Smyth sounded on the spot in more than 100 fathoms, and this, added to 200 feet that the island rose above the sea, gives 800 feet as the height of the cone from the

¹ Lyell's 'Principles of Geology,' vol. ii. p. 60, 12th edition.