

cessive important eruption, a similar but minor operation takes place within the present cone. The hardened cake of lava forming the floor is burst open, and with it there usually disappears much of the upper part of the cone, and sometimes, as in 1872, a large segment of the crater-wall. The Valle del Bove on the eastern flank of Etna is a chasm probably due mainly to some gigantic prehistoric explosion.<sup>50</sup> The islands of Santorin (Figs. 65 and 66) bring before us evidence of a prehistoric catastrophe of a similar

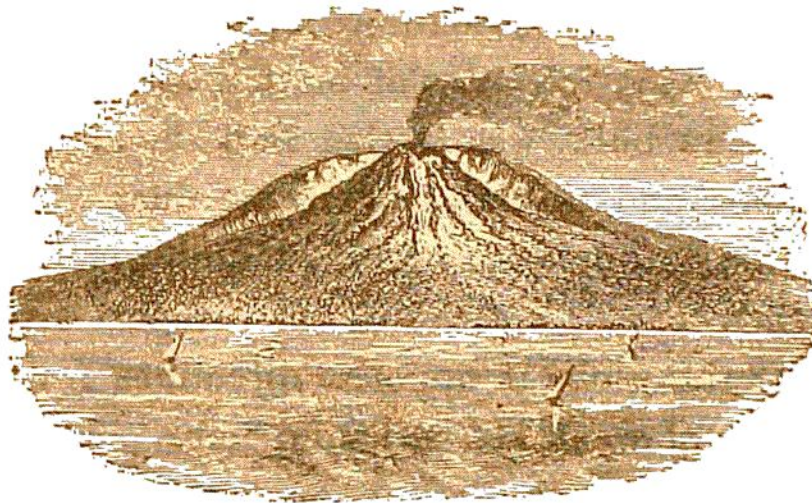


Fig. 45.—View of Vesuvius from the south,  
Showing the remaining part of the old crater-wall of Somma behind.

nature, by which a large volcanic cone was blown up. The existing outer islands are a chain of fragments of the periphery of the cone, the centre of which is now occupied by the sea. In the year 1538 a new volcano, Monte Nuovo, was formed in 24 hours on the margin of the Bay of Naples. An opening was drilled by successive explosions, and such quantities of stones, scoriæ, and ashes were thrown out from it as to form a hill that rose 440 English feet above the sea-level, and was more than a mile and a half in circumference. Most of the fragments now to be seen on the slopes of this cone and inside its beautifully perfect crater are of

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<sup>50</sup> "Der Aetna," p. 400.