

molten rock, are strewn abundantly over the cone, while the surface of the lava is likewise rugged with similar clinkers, which may now and then be observed piled up round some more energetic steam-spiracle. Sometimes the vapor forces up the lava round such a spiracle or fumarole and gradually piles up a rugged column several feet or yards in height, as

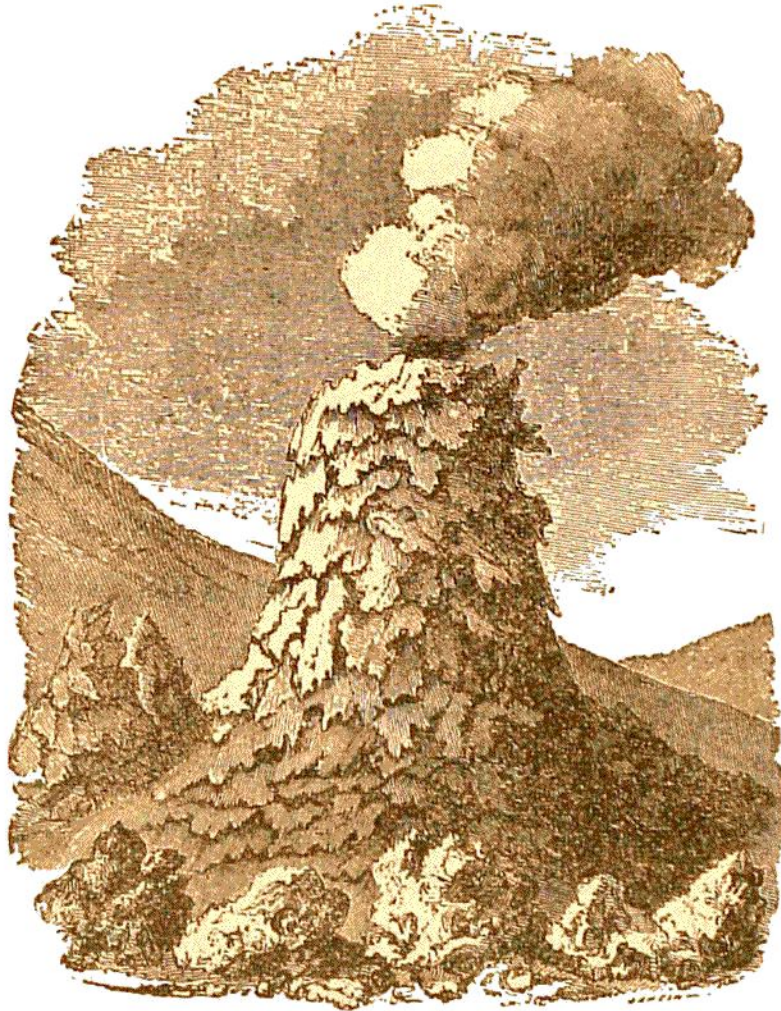


Fig. 50.—Lava-column (eight feet high), Vesuvius (Abich).

has been observed on Vesuvius⁷⁶ (Figs. 46, 49, 50). So vast an amount of steam rushes out from one of these orifices, and with such boiling and explosion, that the cone of bombs, slags, and irregular lumps of lava forms a miniature or parasitic volcano, which will remain as a marked cone on its

⁷⁶ Some good examples were observed on this mountain in the summer of 1891 by Mr. Johnston-Lavis, Brit. Assoc. 1891, sect. C.