

St. George
(to)
CADIZ AND GIBRALTAR,
up the Mediterranean

(to)
Sicily AND Malta,
(in 1810, & 11.)

including a Description of
SICILY and the LIPARI ISLANDS,
and an
Excursion in Portugal,
by *Lt. Genl. Cockburn.*



View on the Coast of Tindari.

VOL. I.

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PREFACE.



THE voyages and travels already published, are so numerous, that it may appear unnecessary, or presumptuous, to add to the stock. The utility of such works is, however, admitted; for few comparatively, even of the well-educated part of society, have the opportunity of leaving their native country; and it is only through the relations of travellers, that they can gain a knowledge of the manners and modes of thinking peculiar to different nations; and acquire those just and liberal views of society, which an intercourse with foreign countries is calculated to communicate. Books of travels, if in a small compass, and written with fidelity, are useful guides to future travellers.

During the tour I made through Sicily, I frequently experienced much inconvenience from the want of such a book. The natives of every country regard, with apathy, the curiosities that are every day before them; but the Sicilians are particularly inattentive to such subjects.

Of the different travels through Sicily that have been published, many are too expensive and too large to be made travelling companions. A splendid work, published at Paris, in 1782, entitled "Voyage Pittoresque de Naples et de Sicile, by the Abbè de St. Non," in five folio volumes, with fine engravings, would render any other unnecessary; but five folios are not portable, and their price is far beyond what most persons would chuse to give. Wilkin's *Magna Græcia* (a ten guinea folio) is a valuable work, but it only treats of the antiquities of Syracuse, Agrigentum, and Salimus or Salinumtum, and is in no respect a tour. That entertaining writer Swinburne, made a very hurried tour of Sicily, and did not ascend Mount Etna, or visit the Lipari Islands. De Non has some merit, but it is nearly forty years since he visited the island; and in many instances, he is either incorrect or deficient: it is a bad abridgement of St. Non. Brydone published about the same time; and though very amusing, he has certainly much that might be spared;—nearly forty pages are taken up with the account of a comet, and the amour of a Capuchin at Naples, which surely have no immediate relation to a Tour through Sicily and Malta.

The present work is intended to serve as a *Guide des Voyageurs*, to point out the objects most worthy the attention of future visitors;—I do not profess to do more. Those who wish to know the history of the island, under its various masters, cannot be at a loss where to find it. For its present political state, Mr. Leckie's account will be found correct, and well deserving attention. The tour of Spallanzani is valuable to the natural philosopher: and a late work by Abate Ferrara, published at Catania, contains much information relating to the mineralogy and geology of the island; but the *Viaggio per tutti le Antichità Della Sicilia*, by the late Prince Biscaris, was my best guide.—It is, however, a very scarce book, and useless to those who cannot read Italian. The Prince, who might justly be called the *Mæcenas* of his age, is now no more; but his memory and good qualities will live in the recollection of the people of Catania. The splendid museum which he formed, still exists. His life was dedicated to science and the arts; and his great fortune enabled him to encourage every thing useful to his country. This he did with munificence.

In respect to the government of the country, I have not said so much as perhaps I ought. I have rather avoided this subject, because I cannot speak of it without using terms which might not be *approved*. When I was in Sicily, it was bad in the extreme. It is to

be hoped a change under British influence, may bring happiness to this hitherto ill-treated country. Of this, however, I am certain a *mezzo termine*, or vacillating system, will not do. The Sicilians, if well governed, and allowed trade, and a fair use of the benefits which nature has so bountifully bestowed upon them in climate and soil, would become attached to their rulers.

Great commercial and other advantages might be derived to England from the possession of the island,—not to mention the danger of its being annexed to France. Dock-yards for ships of the line might easily be formed at Messina, Syracuse, and Palermo. The forests of Calabria would supply any quantity of fine timber. This, and other circumstances, would make the French absolute masters of the Mediterranean, and render our tenure of Malta very precarious, if Sicily be ever allowed, under any circumstances, to pass into their hands.*

* In the year 1804, in a pamphlet I published, I stated,—

“ There is another very important expedition, in which a disposable force might be employed; but, as I think it must have occurred to his Majesty’s Ministers, and, if thought right, attempted, I shall say no more.” What I meant was the occupation of Sicily. I further stated,—“ England should act on her naval superiority, and declare to

Nature has been so little assisted in this island, and its mineral riches so imperfectly examined, that it is impossible to say, to what extent enterprise might find its reward here. The finest harbours in a manner useless;—a people naturally good, but perverted by mismanagement, superstition, and ill-treatment; no stimulant for industry;—every expedient taken by the clergy and barons to keep the people in poverty, passive obedience, and profound ignorance: Such is the present state of Sicily. Though it is but just to observe, that some of the barons are endeavouring to restore the forms, at least, of a tolerable constitution, which, I hear, they once enjoyed; but of this I can find no proof: a sort of parliament they certainly had.

Surely, if Europe should obtain a respite from its political convulsions, and a solid balance of power be restored, with the blessing of peace, the change will be due to the perseverance of England, and to the immense sums with which she has furnished the allies, to enable them to bring

“ France: — Since you rule the Continent, we will rule the seas:—
 “ you oppose our Continental connections, you shall not have any
 “ trade; we will destroy your trade and your navy.” This system was
 afterwards followed; at least we acted on the seas with all the power
 which our naval superiority conferred.

about such desirable events. And is England to have no reward;—no return for all her treasure; and a full proportion of the blood spent to recover the liberties of Europe? Undoubtedly she ought; and I sincerely hope she will see her true interest, and keep Sicily, as well as Malta. Sicily, where nature has done so much and man so little, would be worth six West India Islands in point of mere riches—not to speak of its superior climate, and its importance as a military station. After we have witnessed the very unexpected change in the political state of Europe, the most inexperienced statesman cannot believe in the continuance of peace for the next ten years.*

France, whether under a Napoleon or a Bourbon dynasty must be a great country, and will have a powerful navy. Jealousy, and different interests, will again embroil Europe in war, as it has always done. Russia is a great power, and a naval one also; and we may have to fight

* The great King of Prussia, in a letter to D'Alembert, says,—

“ Vous voyez donc que la guerre est un des ingrediens qui entrent nécessairement dans la composition de ce malheureux monde.—
 “ L'Europe n'a vu qu'une succession de guerres perpetuelles: en fin
 “ rarement se passent-t-il dix ans de suite que toute L'Europe jouisse
 “ d'une paix durable.”

for our naval superiority before very long.—Ministers should look further than the present moment,—probably they do.* I am aware of the difficulty of answering the question,—“How can you consistently take a country from an old Ally, and one who at least thinks himself indebted to you for the loss of Naples?” I admit the difficulty, and can only answer “by exchange and negotiation.” A more favourable moment than the present, when England has so much to give, may not occur again! But I fear the poor Sicilians will not be gainers by late events: on the contrary, I suspect they will lose the little they have obtained through our interference; and, most probably, will live another half century under all the miseries of a bad government and a rapacious clergy.

The restoration of Ferdinand to Naples might be difficult, and possibly not desirable; but, as undoubtedly England was the great support of all the old dynasties, and as her exertions and perseverance checked the French attempt at universal empire, and replaced fallen monarchs on their

* It was very lately the opinion of the Crown Prince of Sweden, (Bernadotte,) that Europe has much more to fear ultimately from Russia than from France; I believe, such is also the opinion of the most enlightened statesmen, who can look beyond the present.

thrones, I think we might have negotiated an adequate indemnity for Ferdinand in Italy, either Tuscany or the Duchies of Parma, and Placentia, to which might have been annexed Genoa and its states, or a good sovereignty in Dalmatia; for which, and a sum of money, possibly Sicily might be ceded to England. I could say more on this subject; but it is useless.*

To return to the present volumes, and the circumstances under which they were written:—

I was appointed to the staff of the army in Sicily in 1810, and arrived there at a most interesting moment, when Murat was on the opposite coast, in full preparation for invasion. Promotion, which in all other professions is an advantage, is often the contrary to the higher ranks of the army and navy. Mine to Lieutenant-General, removed me from the Sicilian Staff; but, before I heard of it, Murat and his army broke up, and every idea of attack was over: it however left me at liberty to make the tour of this singular island. My situation and rank, as well as the kindness of our Com-

* " Il faut remarquer par quelle fatalité aveugle les affaires de ce monde sont gouvernées."

mander-in-chief; Sir John Stuart, who assisted me in my undertaking, gave me facilities which few Sicilian travellers have had; and I must not forget my worthy friend, the Sicilian governor, General Danero, who obliged me with his advice and recommendations.

Sicily being out of the beaten track of travellers, and so many years garrisoned by British troops, may excite many to make the tour; and to such persons I trust this work will be useful. The island abounds in objects worthy of observation: It is extremely mountainous; but the vallies have a most prolific soil. Those who like to explore mountain regions, and who delight in the beauties of nature, or the study of natural history, will derive pleasure at every step. The botanist and mineralogist will have ample gratification in such a tour; and the lover of antiquity will continually find himself on classic ground; and, in many interesting places, remarkable for great events in past ages. The philosophic traveller, and geologist, will not be disappointed. They may contemplate the various changes this volcanic country has undergone from subterraneous fires, earthquakes, &c. Its moral and political changes appear to have kept pace with its physical. Good roads or inns, and English cleanliness and convenience, must not be expected. The Sicilian traveller will meet many difficulties, much fatigue, and often scanty fare.

In an Appendix, I give an account of the dreadful earthquake in 1783; partly taken from the account of Sir William Hamilton, (*Philosophical Transactions*, vol. lxxiii. for the year 1783) and partly from that of M. Lallement, at that time Vice-Consul of France at Messina, and sent to the French Minister. M. De St. Non describes him as a man,—*D'un vrai mérite*; but I must protest against his accuracy, and, of course, I shall note his mistatements. I was at Naples when this earthquake happened; and, from what I then heard, (but which I should not at this distance of time pretend to recollect with accuracy, if I had not found my letters written in the year 1783, from Naples, to Mr. A. Caldwell, who died lately, leaving me his executor) and from what I heard and saw on the spot since, at Messina, I declare the account of the Chevalier de Fay to be the best and most accurate, and I therefore give it entire.

Some other matters will be found in the Appendix, which I flatter myself will be interesting; particularly an account of all the eruptions of Etna on record, with their dates.

I must plead guilty to a charge which will be brought against me,—namely, that of frequently speaking in the first person; but, in mitigation of censure on this point, it may be stated, that these volumes were taken from a journal, written without any intention of publication at the

time; and, as I reside at a distance from the press, I was not aware, until a very considerable part of the work was printed, how much the journal stile would subject me to the charge of egotism. Those who know me, will, I trust, attribute this to inattention, rather than vanity; but I solicit the candid indulgence of others, both for the appearance of egotism and for repetitions, which are, in some degree, unavoidable in a journal. Those who have ever been surprised at the different impression produced by the same narrative when printed, and when in manuscript, will make allowances for one inexperienced in publication.

From the censure of mere fastidious readers, I may, perhaps, defend myself by pleading the authority of an eminent writer, whose judgment on subjects of literature will not be disputed; speaking of the proper stile for voyages and travels, he says,—

“ I own I am pleased when the traveller speaks in the
“ first person, and conducts us from inn to inn, and town
“ to town, with all the familiarity of an old acquaintance.
“ Every thing which concerns him, and is proper to be
“ imparted, interests us. We feel as he did in all his
“ inconveniences and distresses, and derive from the
“ whole account of small particulars, as well as great,
“ a very valuable share and species of experience. The

“ style of voyages and travels should be plain, simple,
 “ perspicuous, and unaffected. I think they appear
 “ seldom to great advantage, but when written in the
 “ words of the traveller or voyager, at the very time at
 “ which the circumstances which he relates occurred :
 “ They have then the native hue and complexion of truth,
 “ which seldom fails to attach the mind, when clearly pre-
 “ sented to its view.”*

I confess also that I did not aim at that smooth uniformity of style and manner, in which the character of the writer is often lost through fear of criticism. Modern books, as well as modern fashionable societies, all get polished down to the same unmeaning level; or, to use Rousseau's description of the fashionables who moved in the first circles in Paris,—“ they all appear like puppets
 “ glued to the same board, and moved by the same
 “ wire.”

For the long Errata of names and places, occasioned by my having neglected to write a fair copy for the printer, I allow myself to deserve any blame which the severity of

* Knox's Literary Essays, No. 25.

criticism may inflict. I have no doubt there may be some errors of a more important kind: The most diligent traveller is liable to erroneous information. Truth (the first of virtues) has been adhered to: I have related facts and circumstances as they appeared to me; but that men do not always see the same thing in the same point of view is most certain.

I can, without vanity, declare myself to be free from any undue, religious, or national prejudices; and, I believe, my work will, at least, have the merit of strict impartiality. I state correctly what I saw: and, though my opinions may be erroneous, they are honestly my opinions. It has been my wish to cherish feelings of compassion, and indulgence for the failings of the people, whose vices may, in a great degree, be traced to the mismanagement of their rulers. Allowance ought to be made for ignorance and superstition, and the many evils thereby produced. I cannot help lamenting, that in Sicily, and in many other countries I have visited, maxims of humanity or wisdom appear to have been but little attended to by the government. A comparison between the lot of the people in England and in America, and that of the subjects of any other country cannot fail to impress us with the value of freedom.

It may be proper to add, that the part which comprises the voyage has been considerably abridged; and some rea-

ders will, perhaps, think it might have been entirely omitted. It serves, however, to connect the narrative, and the taste of different readers may vary;—thus those who would find no entertainment from a description of volcanic productions, or from the antiquities of Agrigentum, may be amused with even the monotony of a sea journal, and the narrative of marine excursions.

The plates have been executed after drawings made from accurate sketches I took myself: they may differ from others, because, in taking views, so much depends on the spot from whence taken; and the same town or hill will have a very different appearance from different situations. As profit has not been my object, the plates are engraved as well as the price of the book could possibly admit; and I flatter myself with the expectation that they will be approved.

G. C.

Dublin,
Jan. 1815.

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Return to Messina—Christmas Customs and Amusements of the Sicilians—The Carnival—Departure for Lipari—Island of Volcano—Descent into the Crater—Volcanic Productions—Recent Eruptions from this Volcano.

Dec. 9th.—I passed the remainder of the month at Messina; and shall briefly state such circumstances as may serve to illustrate the state of the climate, and the customs of the inhabitants, at this season of the year.

This day, being the miraculous conception of the Virgin Mary, there was a procession in the streets, and a huge image of a Saint carried about. Scarcely a day passes without some church or other, having a service, or function,

as they call it, in honour of a Saint; and, on these occasions, they fire a number of patereros; it is made a part of the service, like a *feu de joie*, and the guns arranged, in the street, in front of the Church; The miserable ringing, or rather noise, of the bells, goes on all day. The Madre Chiesa, or Cathedral, was illuminated on this occasion, and its bells made a tremendous noise: they have no idea, either of the Flemish chimes, or the English bob-majors.

The French have built a set of huts, a fort, and a new telegraph, just opposite my windows, on the very top of the Calabrian mountains: this was done while we were on our tour:— They have another hut-camp very high up to the left. The situation must be now very cold. They do not appear to have many troops there.

Towards the afternoon, when the sun shines strong on the opposite coast, I can see the town of St. Geovani, and the people walking about very plain: I cannot believe it is six miles across. The hills of Calabria look beautiful; many of them covered with fine wood; the snow on the leaves shows them more distinctly than they can be seen in Summer. I am told these forests have very fine timber, and magnificent walnut

and chestnut trees. They are rebuilding the *Marsino*, destroyed by the earthquake in 1763.

In the Winter, we have a garrison ball once a fortnight: The rooms are excellent; with two good bands; and yet they do not seem well attended, though there is so large a garrison, and so many English ladies here; if it were not for the addition of Sicilian company, they could not make up a dance. The British officers do not appear to have much intercourse with the Sicilians; indeed, as the latter only keep *dry lodgings*,* and do not even give *dry drums*, it is not surprising. The English officers have made fire places in the houses they occupy; but I did not find it necessary to have one before the thirteenth.

Friday, 14th.—I set out, after breakfast, in Sir John Stuart's barge, to see the coast; and intending to go to the Faro; but, when at the Grotto, (half way) the hills and mountains were so obscured in clouds, with every appearance of storm and rain, that I put about and returned:

* Dry Lodging is an Irish term well known; and in that country, a card-party, or assembly, without a supper, is also called a Dry Drum.

just as we reached Messina, the day cleared up: the views from the harbour and sea are fine, and always afford gratification.

Several ships came in this morning through the Faro, and the French, as usual, cannonaded them: and this day there was very heavy firing; our gun-boats went out and stood over towards St. Geovani, to return the compliment on the town; but the appearance of storm and bad weather made them return also. It is surprising that the French persevere in firing at merchant ships passing the Faro: they seldom do them any material damage; whereas the shot and shells fired from our boats into their town and barracks greatly injures them. They have been repeatedly sent to, and informed, that we would not fire on the town, except when they fired at merchant ships. Men of war are considered fair objects; but whenever they fired at an unarmed vessel, the gun-boats would attack St. Geovani;—still they persevere.

Saturday, 15th.—A Sicilian was hanged this day for repeated robberies, and setting fire to houses. I saw the operation from a gentleman's house opposite the place of execution. The Sicilian mode is certainly merciful to the malefactor, though in appearance very shocking:—

one fellow stands on the shoulders of the criminal, and, of course, his neck is immediately broke; and another hangs by his legs all the time he is on the gibbet.

I am sorry to add, that it has been necessary to execute several soldiers in this army. One man lately loaded his musquet, and shot the serjeant of his company before the whole guard, and was, of course, hanged.

19th.—Thermometer at fifty degrees; wind north; Calabrian mountains covered with snow; and yet a very fine day.

The Commander of the forces reviewed the artillery. A ship, with Congreve rockets, arrived lately, and this day Sir John Stuart ordered an experiment with them: their force and noise is prodigious; they went nearly three thousand yards, and set fire to some timber where they fell. At 8 o'clock, P.M. when perfectly dark, a discharge of these rockets was repeated; great numbers of people went out to see it; but, in their night appearance, there seemed little difference between them and a common rocket, except in their noise. These rockets cost about twenty-five shillings each, and are of three sorts:—one with a small shell to burst;

one with a carcass to set fire to any place; and the third, with a shrapnel shell, containing forty musket bullets.

The climate of Sicily has six months of extremely hot weather, and towards the Vernal equinox, two months of storm and torrents of rain; for four months it is the most delightful climate in the world.

22nd.—Stromboli was this day *in nubibus*; but, as the sun shone on the Calabrian coast, towards afternoon every object there was very distinct. I could see the sentries as plainly as possible with my glass, and, indeed, almost with the naked eye. They are now repairing Scylla Castle, which we attempted to blow up two years ago; and are also erecting some formidable batteries for heavy guns along the coast. The distance *here* across, does not seem more than one mile and a half English, at the most.

We walked round to the hut-barracks, lately occupied by the 58th regiment, and now by the 51st; but they are so badly finished, and so cold in this season, at night, that, in one large room, four officers have pitched their tents, by which they have good shelter.

The new Redoubt, on the south coast, is in a strong situation, and the masons' work well done; but is yet without cannon in it, magazines, or bomb-proofs. The soil here is all sandy, and yet produces vines: the wine of the Faro is very good. The roads at night are very extensive; and, from the deep sand, very fatiguing to officers and men. A little under this sand, there is a stratum of very hard stuff like stone and mortar; it runs from the Faro inferiore round to the north, and crosses to Genzari; at about three feet under the sand, it is like a rock. I saw the foundations, and some broken pedestals of the columns of Neptune's Temple, situated here; little remains of it, except the foundations; which, from the excellence of the mortar or cement is so hard, they cannot break it with the best pickaxes; and, as it is in the way of some of their projected works, they will be obliged to blast it. We walked round the lakes,* after descending from the Redoubt, and

* In most of the accounts of the earthquake of 1783, it is stated, that these lakes were entirely dried up by that convulsion, though every English officer, who has been in Sicily, knows the contrary:—so much for correct information.

called on Major Reeves (of the 27th regiment) at Gonzari.

The road along the coast to the Faro was made lately, and is excellent; the distance nine miles by land or by water. The new military roads, made up the mountains for horses and mules, are, in many places, almost perpendicular. For a month before Christmas, the mountaineers, who play on a miserable sort of bag-pipe, such as was in use in the time of Virgil, come into the towns, and perambulate the streets in the night, to the great annoyance of bad sleepers; and really make as much noise as Mac Nab, or any Highland chief, with a dozen bag-pipes, could desire. Some of these fellows have been bribed to go different times to the doors of certain persons, to make as much noise as possible in the night; most of the houses here being let in floors, or flats, as in Edinburgh, and the stairs open and common to all: before morning the pipers run off, and do not return again till after an interval of a day or two; the people are all very angry, and vow vengeance; but the authors of this amusing hoax have not been found out yet;—many a curse the pipers get: indeed, without these extraordinary efforts, the annoyance is sufficiently great.

The higher a man is lodged in Messina the more fashionable;—a most inconvenient custom in a hot climate: a first floor is not on a par with a garret in London: it is very tiresome to have to mount always up to the top of a high house.

The Theatre closes three weeks at this time of the year,—two before, and one after, Christmas, which the Sicilians lament much, as it is their chief amusement.

24th.—A very fine day; although a little fire is comfortable after dinner, yet I generally breakfast with my windows open, which shews the comparative mildness of this climate in Winter. I find a considerable change in my health for the better, since we have had cold weather, or rather a cessation of the terrible heat.

I went this day to the Madre Chiesa, it being Christmas Eve: there was an excellent band of violins, &c. at 10 o'clock at night. The Church was illuminated; and there was good music till mid-night, when they performed high mass; it ended near 2 o'clock in the morning. They did not expose the image of a child at the altar.

to represent the Nativity, as is usual; and which I recollect seeing in great perfection, many years ago, at Leghorn. The effect of the music, the lights, the service, and the crowds of people, during the darkness of mid-night, had its sublimity, and was interesting. The philosopher might here moralize on human institutions; the effects of early prejudices; the hypocrisy of a large portion of the Priests; and their hearers; and the folly and superstition of the remaining part. I cannot, however, help declaring my opinion, that some religious superstition is as necessary to keep the lower order in subordination, as the fear of punishment.

25th.—The Guarda Redoubt, now building, is found fault with by some good judges; but its situation is certainly excellent, commanding the beach north to the Faro, and south to Salvador de Greci, likewise the Guarda, Fumara, and the beach under and opposite: it stands high, but is commanded by higher ground near it, on which, no doubt, a tower will be built, and the works connected, as the engineers are so fond of spending money. Never was there a finer day; and I think it is as warm as July, in England.

25th.—They say there was an earthquake this day, but I did not feel it: light shocks of earthquake are frequent at Messina.

JANUARY 1st, 1811.—The Sicilian custom on this day, and adopted by the English, is a universal visiting, &c. a neglect of it is thought quite an insult; what a tiresome waste of time! All persons seem employed the whole day at this dull work.

2nd.—I went, the second time, to the Capuchin Convent: it is large; and once contained one hundred monks, and had a fine library: What is become of the brethren, unless they have died off, I cannot say: but the Convent is now a military hospital, and partly in ruins. All that now remains of Fort Mattagriffoni is the Telegraph Tower. Here our Richard Cœur de Lion wintered, in his way to Palestine.

This is Twelfth Night, and is kept, but not as in England. A sort of show most ingeniously made, is exhibited on a small stage, in the largest room in the house; in which every thing in the world seems represented in miniature-figures,—viz. houses, men, animals of all sorts, trees, gardens, parks, towns, rivers, mountains, woods, flowers, mills,

carriages, ships, boats, birds, temples in ruins, and modern ones, churches, &c. &c. and in a corner the virgin and the Bambino Gesù Christo, with the Kings from the East; such parts as should be in motion are so; and the whole is well-lighted: it goes on all night, and a constant succession of people come to see it: Perhaps there may be a dozen in every city; and this is their mode of keeping Twelfth Night. I went with a party after dinner to two of them, and they are certainly worth seeing.

7th.—As fine a day as any of ours in August. I intended to set out for Palermo the first; but I have been so strongly advised to visit the Lipari Islands, and hear so much of Volcano and Stromboli, that I have determined to visit them.

A flag of truce came over in the evening: no particular news. On these occasions, they always send the French and Neapolitan papers: three fellows also got a boat, and deserted from Calabria to us. The difference in the length of the day at this season with us, and in this latitude, is very apparent.

11th.—The people have been much alarmed these three days, expecting an earthquake, in

consequence of a great shoal of small fish appearing in the harbour, and which they say is always observed before east: but they are easily alarmed, and fly to implore protection from their Saints. I intended to go this day to the mountain Antona Mara, but it was quite in *nubibus*.

12th.—Called on M. Danero, the Governor of Messina, being his King's birth day: He is a respectable and very fine old man, near ninety, but perfect in all his faculties; and what is more singular at his advanced age, is very neat and clean.

At night, the Governor gave a ball at the palace in honour of the day: it was well attended, and there were plenty of refreshments. The Sicilian ladies wear a profusion of fine diamonds; this, with a carriage, is their chief expence.

13th.—The Carnival begins this day; though every body seems to know what it is, few can define it: this was the subject of conversation at a large dinner party, at M. Mercati's.—Colonel ——— gave the best definition I have heard;—being asked its true meaning, he an-

swered: "As, in all Catholic countries, they
" must fast during Lent, and also then confess
" their sins; they therefore take six weeks of
" pleasure immediately before Lent, and do
" what they please, as they may wipe off all
" at once; and this six weeks of dissipation,
" intrigue, and feasting, is called Carnival."

17th.—This day it rained in torrents; it was almost impossible to stir out: I, however, got as far as the News Room, which is in the same street that I live. This establishment has been formed by the British officers, and is a very good one.

18th.—Our Queen's birth day, contrary to every probability, a very fine one. At 10 o'clock Sir J. Stuart held a levee; and, at noon, the royal artillery, dragoons, and fourteen battalions of infantry, formed in line on the sands, from Contessa to the Citadel, full three miles: Fort Gonzani fired twenty-one guns, and the troops three rounds in *feux de joie*; lastly, the gunboats, which anchored opposite the beach, fired three rounds. The French had a fine view of it. The regiments came in from the Grotte Gonzani, the Faro, and Salvador de Greci: ten thousand men were under arms: After this they

marched past the royal standard, and saluted. I believe there is not, for its numbers, a finer army in Europe, and so healthy and well appointed. At night, Sir John gave a magnificent ball, which was well attended: He also had a fire-work in the street: the best I ever saw, and conducted by Sicilians, who excel in this art.—The Sicilian ladies wore a profusion of beautiful diamonds; and there was an excellent supper.

19th.—Sir John got French papers from Calabria, by a flag of truce; and London news with Parliamentary proceedings of the 18th of December. I dined, at Contessa, with the 21st regiment, and rode home with Grattan. The night was so dark, that the Major would not ride, but walked with another officer:—*Incidit in Scyllam qui vult vitare Carybdim!* He fell down near the town, and unfortunately broke his arm, and dislocated his elbow.

20th.—I intended to set out for Melazzo tomorrow; but the Major's accident will prevent me for some days, as he is, at present, in a helpless state.

30th.—After ten days of very bad weather, we, at last, have a fine day. I set out at 11

o'clock; with Mr. Grattan, and rode to Melazzo, twenty-four miles. A part of the road is very good; but more than half extremely bad. From the top of the Cork-Screw hill, the view on each side to Messina, and west to Melazzo, with Stromboli and the Lipari Islands, is fine indeed. The country, as far as Spada Faro, is all hilly and volcanic, but interesting. Jesso is prettily situated, but a poor town; from a little beyond it, the road is nearly impassable. Three miles before our arrival at Spada Faro, we met a detachment of the Val de Notò dragoons; and, as I had seat on the mules with my baggage, I was obliged to ask the road: the officer politely came with us himself; and, at Spada Faro, I got an orderly dragoon to shew us the way. Without a guide we never could have accomplished it; and the road was here so deep, that the horses sink nearly to their bodies. The bad roads about Etna are all hard knobs, rocks, and masses of rough lava; this the contrary, but worse, as a road, being through a bog. Spada Faro is a poor fishing village, near the sea: an old castle, now a barrack, is its principal building: Hitherto the country was all mountainous: but from hence to Melazzo is flat for about four miles. The deep boggy soil, however, pro-

duces good corn, though almost a slough; but the last three miles is over a fine sand, like a riding-house; neither too hard nor too deep, and is as fine a horse-road as possible. We arrived at 5 o'clock, the distance is not measured, but cannot be less than twenty-four, and is called twenty-eight miles: It took us just six hours at a walk. Melazzo is finely situated, and looks well as one approaches; it is above a mile long.

31st.—I got quarters last night at Baron Pyoto's;—fine rooms, fine gilding and painting, and a good bed; but many articles of the furniture certainly have never been dusted since they were made.

As I had a scampavia; and an order for a gun-boat to attend me to Lipari from the division at Melazzo; Doctor Mosely and Mr. Crosley accompanied us. We sailed at 11 o'clock, with two gun-boats, and the scampavia: the wind was fair, and we got on well for two hours, when it fell calm; we therefore went on board the scampavia, and took to the oars: We reached Lipari at 6 o'clock.

The promontory of Melazzo extends nearly

three miles beyond the town; is well planted with olives, and seems a fine country. At the point is a light-house: the ground very high; though looking at it from Etna, or even from the hills of Messina, it appears quite flat. We had a pleasant run to Lipari,* and passed Volcano, which is smoking much: The town and castle of Lipari is beautifully situated. We are lodged at the British Consul's: the Governor came and asked us to supper, and a very good one he gave us: he seems a truly worthy man; he lives in the castle, which stands high. The air feels cold; but, even at this season of the year, we could walk on the terrace in the evening without hats, to admire the prospect of the sea and rocks by moon-light.

Friday, February 1st. — On our arrival last evening, the Governor,† a number of officers, and, as I thought, all the constituted authorities of Lipari came to pay their respects; but this

* These Volcanic Islands go by the general name of the *Æolian Isles* (called, of late, the Lipari.)

† M. Torrecellas, Governatore.

D. Mestgen, Commandante.

R. Rodrigues, British Consul.

morning, before nine, my anti-room was full of officers and barons, with the Governor and Bishop; in short, such a levee as would have made some figure in Dublin Castle: Greek, Albanian, and Sicilian officers, and all full dressed. Having had a little court education, I got through tolerably well; and, with Grattan and Crotley, as Aid-de-Camps, and Doctor Moseley, my Grand Chamberlain, had as much state and parade as any one could desire: a guard of honour, with every other attention, were paid. When we embarked for Volcano, the Marino was lined with people: their civility and attention I can never forget; but would willingly have excused all this parade. We sailed from hence to Volcano;* but the above business of etiquette, and the necessity of showing every civility in return, delayed us so much, that it was 11 o'clock before we were clear of the port. We arrived at

* *Insula Sicanium juxta, latus Æoliæque,
 Brigitur Liparen, fumantibus ardua saxis;
 Quam subter specus et Cyclopum exesa caminis
 Antra Ætnæ tonant, validique incudibus ictus,
 Auditi referunt gemitum, striduntque cavernis
 Stricturæ Chalybum, et fornacibus ignis anhelat;
 Vulcani domus, et Vulcania nomine tellus.*

VIRG. ÆNÆ. lib. viii. v. 416.

Volcano in an hour,—I think the distance five miles: We got to the top of the great mountain in a little more than another hour, viz. past 1 o'clock, P.M. The difficulty and danger in some places was great indeed,—far more than at Etna: Our guides were excellent, and several officers accompanied us; but most of them came armed, and with a troop of dogs;—a great annoyance, for the dogs tumbled the stones on us; and the Caciatores* stumbled so often, and carried their guns so very carelessly, that I reminded them, we came to explore a Volcano, and not on a shooting party: I therefore requested the sportsmen to take another direction, and leave the Volcano to us.

The difficulty of the ascent was great, being over frightful precipices, with scarcely any holding for the feet; and some of our boat-crew, who came up to carry my sack and box for specimens, with ropes for our descent into the crater, were really much frightened; and more than once we had to pass along a narrow path, where the least false step was inevitable destruction. We afterwards looked at the places we

* Caciatore is Italian for Sportsman.

passed with astonishment. Doctor Mosely, and several Sicilian officers, were satisfied with gaining the top, and looking into the crater: they would not go down. Here, indeed, description fails me: I have seen Vesuvius and both sides of Etna, and I had heard much of Volcano, but had no idea of the singular magnificence it presents. To see it is well worth all the trouble and expence of a voyage from England: The crater appears to me about the size of that of Vesuvius; and, indeed, in this, officers, who have lately seen Vesuvius, agree. Etna is much larger; but Volcano far exceeds either as an object of natural curiosity: It is still a burning mountain, and affording the greatest variety of volcanic productions that can be conceived. The interior of Vesuvius is more interesting than Etna, which is mostly a black mass, and is curious from its immensity, and the number of minor volcanic hills and craters within it, all smoking, and in activity. Vesuvius is a *Mezzo termine* between the coal-dust appearance of Etna, and the perfection of Volcano. Volcano affords every thing that the naturalist, the philosopher, or the curious traveller can desire in this branch of natural history. I shall always think of the day with pleasure: Mr. Crotley, Grattan, two of the Sicilian officers, and myself went down into the

crater: the descent was difficult, and took nearly an hour; we got to the bottom at half past 2 o'clock,—I remained scrambling about the Volcano till 4 o'clock; with some difficulty I got the guide to go with me, over some heaps of this volcanic matter, to a spot on the opposite side of the crater, from whence there issued a hot spring: the water appeared very clear. Before this, Grattan and I were almost suffocated and burned; every button of my coat was turned black by the smoke and sulphur, and the epaulets ruined; the Sicilian officers, who came down with us, had unluckily new uniforms on, and they were totally spoiled.

This Volcano has the advantage of affording every possible volcanic production, with active fire, smoke, and a boiling like a tremendous furnace;—we might suppose all the steam engines in England were collected in this place.

The rich variety of sulphurs, vitriol, lava, alum, salt-petre, and obsidian, or volcanic glass, in a perfect state of fusion, all so hot as to require great caution in collecting the specimens, abundantly repay the visitor for his trouble.

This day was most delightfully passed, though amidst smoke and sulphurous exhalation, which, in other situations, would have been intolerable: two hours is much too short a space for the examination of this singular Volcano: often did the guides call me to come away; but this is their common practice, both here and at Stromboli, and Etna; but it should not alarm the traveller. It took exactly the same time to descend as to ascend; an observation which I have made before in similar expeditions.

There are cylindrical forms, and also crystals of sulphur; and many of the pieces of matter, which project, in all sorts of shapes, from the sides of Volcano, are found to contain antimony as well as alum; several of them appear like petrifications in beautiful groups, from slight and delicate forms to large masses.

In some parts the matter is in absolute fusion, like that in a glass-house, and clammy; by putting in a stick, it adheres, and it is easy to take it up, and when it cools it becomes hardish; but I found many of these specimens (with every care) in a few months dissolved, and turned to sulphurous water; and it stains paper, linen, or any thing it touches. Not only sul-

phurous acid, but muriatic acid is to be found here; which possibly occasions the variety of colours that the lavas have.

It is certain Volcano had eruptions in the time of Thucydides, five hundred years before Christ; but what greater antiquity it has, is impossible to guess: historic records are too scanty to supply earlier information.

Volcano has been active for ages; and is so still. The base of the island appears a rock of black lava: but the superstructure of the whole island, as well as the immediate cone and crater, is composed of every variety of volcanic matter;—pumice of different sorts, some hard, some brittle, others compact, and many porous; dross and scoria of various forms, and of different weight, and density; many vitrifications, some appearing like hard black glass, others a sort of green easily broke, and assuming the form of stalactites: the sulphurs are of all colours, from light buff to deep orange, white, green, and red: there are alum, and other substances mixed with vitriol, which tastes sharp, and burn; many of these are tinged by iron, and in a variety of colours: I found pieces of pumice, with glass in circles in them,

forming rings: Much of the sulphur is in powder; some is hard, and in cylindrical and different forms, and easily detached from the parts to which it is attached.

From the side of the crater, half way as we descended, a spring of boiling and sulphurous water issues. The noise is, at times, great, not only at this point, but in other parts of the crater.

In the year 1781, Lipari and Volcano were much injured by earthquake; and Volcano, after a greater smoke than usual, threw up quantities of ashes.

The same happened in 1789: the ashes of Volcano then showered over all the Eolian Islands; and the earthquake extended to Melazzo, and the north shore of Sicily.

In February 1771, a small shock of earthquake was followed by a very thick black smoke from Volcano; at night it threw up a column of fire. Different eruptions and shocks took place at intervals till June following; and the ashes thrown over Lipari did great damage.

At the same time enormous blocks of red hot lava were thrown up.

Very considerable changes take place in these craters; so that their appearance varies very much at different times: This suffered a violent commotion in 1786, and threw out stones and fire for near a fortnight, and a great quantity of hot sand.

From that period to the present time, there has not been any eruption; although, as I have described, full half of the inside of the crater, in, so far as respects fusion, smoke, heat, noise, &c. &c. now in complete activity.

The exercise and the heat of the Volcano occasioned excessive perspiration; and what was most vexatious, with all my experience, I made no provision; and yet nothing would have been more easy.—What would we have given for a bottle of porter, or glass of wine, or a dry shirt? I provided, indeed, for the object which engrossed my mind, viz. the examination of the Volcano, ropes to descend over precipices, tins for curious and delicate sulphurs, a sack for hard productions, a box and plenty of paper for the more delicate spe-

climens, but not a bottle of porter. I had even forgot my boat cloak, which I was advised to bring with me, as it would be late in the evening before we could return, and very cold on the water, particularly after our exercise and fatigue.

There are no inhabitants on the island of Volcano; the north side is quite barren; but there is some pasture on the south, and great numbers of rabbits: They send large herds of goats from Lipari to feed in that part.

Though Volcano is looked upon as an extinguished Volcano, it is far from being the case; in point of fact, it is at present in greater activity than either Etna or Vesuvius, which only throw up smoke. It is true there is no eruption from it; and though one side of its crater is dormant, the other is a complete furnace.

The path, by which we climbed up, was so dangerous, that all parties agreed it would be impossible to go down by it; and we therefore determined to descend by the other side, where the conical mountain was all ashes and scoriæ.

The guide, an elderly man, never had done this, and made objections to it; however we voted against him; and the rapidity and ease with which we almost, I may say, flew down, was astonishing, and very pleasant: it was like the Ramasser of Mount Cenis. The Grotto, mentioned by Spallanzani, was near the sea; but a part of the mountain fell over and destroyed it. Here the black sand, up to the margin of the sea, is so hot, that one can scarcely take it up: I took up some, and have it; but it was so hot I could not hold it, and was obliged to toss it from one hand to the other till cool. A few yards from shore, the sea boils like a strong spring: such is the effect of the volcanic fire here. The water is so deep that our scampavia could come close to the beach.

It was dark when we got back to Lipari. I went up to the Governor's at the castle, where we all dined; and he has insisted on my taking up my quarters with him. I suffered great fatigue, and much from heat and perspiration this day. The Governor gave us an excellent dinner at near 7 o'clock, (a bad hour for them.) The Bishop, a perfect gentleman, and of fine manners and appearance, dined with us. The Governor's lady had an assembly in the

evening; and it was past midnight before I could retire to bed.

Saturday, 2nd.—The wind did not allow us to proceed to Stromboli: After breakfast I was obliged, in civility, to go to mass. The old town of Lipari, and the Cathedral, is within the castle and ramparts, on a high rock. At 11 o'clock, A.M. we walked to the lower town, and delayed some time in procuring asses to convey our party to the baths: I had the Governor's horse.

The Liparians are no better farmers than their neighbours the Sicilians. The vineyards, however, produce a good sweet wine; some of which is exported. What corn the island produces is insufficient for its consumption. The population is estimated at fifteen thousand. The fishery employs a proportion; but is not carried to any extent. In this day's ride, I perceived enclosures; but very few cottages: What soil I saw turned up appeared rich. There are no great proprietors in the island, except the clergy, who, I believe, assisted by the Queen's taxes, leave but little to the poor inhabitants.

The baths are very ancient, situated in a valley near the sea: The spring is not violent; but the water is hot enough to boil an egg in three minutes;—it is highly sulphureous; the place is *en decadence*. One bath of very ancient structure* is perfect, but surrounded with brambles, rubbish, and ruins; and is all in disorder and neglect. I again forgot my thermometer; but Dr. Mosely believes it would have been at one hundred degrees in this bath, which is vaulted over: it has the advantage of being a liquid, and also a vapour bath. The Liparians talk much of its antiquity: I should date it from the days of Noah, if rude architecture denotes antiquity. There are a number of houses mostly in ruins: What they call dry baths, are some miles farther; but, from the sample I had of the wet, I did not visit them.

* Lipari was, at all times, famous for its baths, and I have no doubt of their use in many disorders.

Hæc Insula Thermiss celebribus exornata est, balnea ista non modo ad bonam valetudinem ægrotantibus, multum conferunt, sed pro singulari aquarum genio non mediocrem voluptatis fructum prostant.

. Dion. Sic. lib. v.

It is a pity these baths are now abandoned, and have no accommodation near them. They are said to be of the greatest use in rheumatism, scurvy, and in all cutaneous complaints.

Volcano looked well from the hills, and sent up volumes of smoke, which they say is a sign of bad weather.

On our return, we called at the Bishop's, and then went to our good quarters, with the Governor, at the castle: his hospitality, and the friendliness of all the people, exceeds description. On our way to the baths, we called to see a collection of minerals and volcanic productions, formed by a captain of artillery.

CHAP. X.

Stromboli—Ascent of the Volcano—Present State of the Crater—Return to Lipari—Extinct Volcanoes in that Island—Another Excursion to the Island of Volcano.

Sunday, 3rd.—We sailed this morning, in the scampavia gun-boat, for Stromboli, at 10 o'clock, A.M. two heavy gun-boats followed, but were soon left behind. We passed the island of Panaria about 1 o'clock, P.M. The Moors landed here a year ago, and carried off nineteen men, women, and children; all of whom they sold in Barbary. The view of the castle and town of Lipari from the sea is beautiful. At 2 o'clock, P.M. we perceived a large gun-boat, and three small barks, bearing down upon us, and every one thought them enemies: I knew, however, that our boat, which has fourteen oars, as well as lateen sails, and goes very fast,

could always beat them, if necessary to put about, or, at least, be able to join our two heavy boats. I directed them to stand on, when we were within gun-shot, as she had no colours, we fired a shot at her, which she at first did not notice, but soon after fired wide of us, and altered her course, hoisting Sicilian colours. She was a Sicilian privateer gun-boat, and had made three prizes, which were in company. At 7 o'clock, we arrived at Stromboli, by moon-light; but stood round the island in order to see the Volcano: at half past 7 o'clock, we came opposite and just under it, and laid to near an hour to look at it; there was a great smoke and a furious fire, which would have appeared better if the night had been darker: about every ten minutes the mountain grumbled, and a small eruption took place, which, for its beauty and singularity, amply repaid the trouble of the voyage. The English Liparian Consul was with us. We landed about 9 o'clock. The poor island affords but miserable accommodation: There is a garrison of fifty Greeks, and a Neapolitan Commandant, a gentleman-like man, who insisted on giving us up his own room: his house, one of the best in the island, consists but of two rooms, and a small kitchen; in one room Grattan, Crotley, and I, supped with our Commandant, and then spread our

mattresses, and slept as well in our clothes; as officers on guard generally do. The thermometer at sea this day at noon, and in shade; with a good breeze from the south, stood at sixty-six degrees.

4th.—The Commandant gave us excellent coffee for breakfast. We set out for the Volcano at half past 10 o'clock; it being elouded before that hour.

The mountain of Stromboli is very steep, yet it would be possible to ride up half of it; but they have neither mules nor asses in the island. The day was hot, and the ascent very difficult, far more so than that of Etna. I was often obliged to rest, but determined not to give up, if I could only go three yards at a time; some places are very rough, and have large loose rocks and scorïæ, which add to the difficulty, and, in other parts, the loose cinders are so steep that, out of five steps three are lost. It took us more than three hours to get to the top of Stromboli. The crater is lower down in the side of the mountain, and people go to the top in order to look down upon it: indeed it would not be possible to see it from any but a higher place, or from the sea: On arriving at the top, and in a great perspiration, the wind and cold were very

piercing. The mountain was now most unfortunately covered with thick clouds and fog, so that it was impossible to see any thing: The top is all volcanic matter and sulphur; and, by the least scraping, the smoke and heat come out. Being determined to wait as long as possible, in hopes the fog might clear away, we scraped the ground, and lay down under shelter of the brow of the hill, in the warm ashes;—the wind very high: Thus we remained two hours and a half, when most fortunately the wind changed, and the fog entirely went off: it was succeeded by a very great smoke from the Volcano; but which did not prevent our seeing several fine eruptions very distinctly.

There are two craters, but small; and every ten minutes, or quarter of an hour, there is an eruption, with a grumbling noise like thunder, from the largest. At one time, the wind cleared away the smoke for a few minutes, and I distinctly saw into the craters, one had positively the appearance, which I was desired to remark, viz. the volcanic matter seemed red-hot, as if boiling in a large pan, and the moment it rose to the top an eruption took place.

The guides were very discontented, and greatly frightened. I was certain I could go down much nearer to the crater than they took us; however they represented the danger as too great, and absolutely held my coat to keep me from attempting it. Two Greek soldiers, who came up with us, had more courage, and I descended with them: There was no difficulty, and very little danger in it. The guides, however, would not stir, but roared out, they would have nothing more to say to *my Excellency*; and that I should infallibly be lost. Their prediction, however, proved false; and Crotley and Grattan afterwards came down as low as I did.

At half past 4 o'clock, we began to descend the mountain, and by another way, which, though easy to run down, would be impossible to ascend, being all a fine volcanic sand, and nearly perpendicular. We descended in one hour, though it took three to gain the summit.*

* There is neither the variety nor beauty in the volcanic matter at Stromboli, which is found at Volcano. Stromboli in this resembles Etna; and, if I had not particularly marked the specimens I took up at Stromboli, it would be impossible to distinguish them from those I took up at Etna: there is no apparent difference. I speak of the mountain and crater, and not of the chrysal minerals found in another part of the island, near the cave or grotto, which is to the south.

The mountain is almost perpendicular on all sides.

The Prickly Pear and vines grow in abundance: Wine is cheap and good; a bottle of good red wine may be had for two-pence, and excellent muscat for five-pence. The following are the degrees at which the thermometer stood the 4th of February.

	Degrees.
At the Commandant's house, at 10 o'clock, A.M.	65
At half way up Stromboli, near noon,....	68
At the top very cold, and blowing hard at half past 1 o'clock, P.M.	53
At the Commandant's, on our return, at 6 o'clock, P.M.	62

At 8 o'clock, Mr. Crotley and I ordered a boat, to go and look at the eruption by night from the sea: The Sicilian mariners declared the surf was so high, it would be impossible: knowing the little dependance to be placed on their statements, I determined to go down to the beach myself, and, on arriving there with Mr. Crotley, I found the surf so trifling, that I at last persuaded them to launch the boat. It is odd these people are so afraid of the least

roughness of the sea, for they swim like fish : they carried us into the boat, and in about an hour we came just under the crater ; I took an exact drawing of it in the day as we sailed from Stromboli.

We landed to the right of the sand-hill, and attempted to climb up, but it was not possible : after seeing three fine eruptions from the sea, we landed again, and attempted to ascend at another place. The Sicilian sailors are very active, strong, and obliging, so that, by a fee, three were persuaded to come with us. It really was a mad enterprize, and the next day I viewed the place with astonishment : by dint of labour and perseverance, we got a considerable way up : The moon was obscured, and from the shade of the mountain, the night was very dark ; I therefore did not see that we were so immediately under the volcano, and in the exact line of its fire. We were laboriously ascending in darkness and silence, when, suddenly, an eruption burst forth with an explosion, the more awful from our nearness to the crater, which, as I have before said, was on this side of the mountain : the sailors cried out, " Foco," and ran away to get under a rock ; great quantities of stones tumbled down the

hill with those thrown up from the crater and two hit me, one on the arm,—a small one; but a large one hit me on the side of my leg; had I received it in front, it must have broken the bone: these were not hot, but two red-hot stones passed close to Crotley's head, fortunately without injuring him. It was now high time to retreat, and give up this exploit, which can have no apology to excuse its folly, except that forgetfulness of danger, which objects of great curiosity and interest sometimes occasion. Just after we had got into the boat, and were clear of shore, the greatest eruption we had seen took place, bringing down a quantity of stone all over the situation we were in but a few minutes before: some, red-hot, came into the water all about our boat, and obliged us to row further out, where we could admire these explosions in safety. It was mid-night before we got back to our quarters.

5th.—The wind was fair for Lipari this morning; but the sea too high for our gun-boats to venture out, and indeed it blew rather too hard to cross forty miles with indifferent sailors: they are, however, quiet, sober, and good natured people. I often think how we should have been tormented with three English or

Irish gun-boat* crews on these islands where wine is to be had so cheap. As I was not satisfied of the impossibility of getting nearer to the craters than we had done, or that the guides had taken us by the best path or side of the mountain, I was not sorry for being kept another day at Stromboli; and, accordingly, after breakfast, I set out, with two Greek soldiers, to explore it my own way: I went up nearer to the sea, and over tremendous rocks: the mountain being nearly perpendicular; and yet the inhabitants have planted vines almost to the top, wherever there is the smallest spot of earth.

On arriving at the top of the first ridge, I found I could not see any thing, but by passing on steep rocks, over the sea, half a mile further. I got to the situation I wished; and which, though extremely difficult and laborious, I am certain would have repaid the labour, but, unfortunately, the mountain was covered with a fog; otherwise I think it a better situation for seeing eruptions than the top of the mountain, and it is much nearer the mouths of the craters.

* These gun-boats are victualled for a month.

The high wind this day made the ascent extremely difficult : often we lay on the ground, and attempted to scramble on by temporary exertions, unwilling to give up ; but the violence of the storm was so great, that if it had not been for a strong brush-wood, which grows out of the crevices of the rocks, and which gave us good support, we could not have accomplished it.

I waited an hour, but the fog continued to increase. I heard several eruptions, but only saw one this day : I was, however, able to gather some specimens. I got home as usual without a dry thread, not from rain, but from perspiration, and greatly fatigued : after changing, Pascall contrived to have an excellent dinner ready, though there were only two small stew-holes, in a kitchen, not more than six feet long by about four feet wide. The civil Commandant, Luigo Angalone, dined with us, and at 8 o'clock we all went to rest.

Stromboli is ten miles in circumference. The inhabitants are about six hundred. The volcano must have been formerly in a much greater state of activity than it has been of late years ; but the great curiosity is, that it never rests : for, above two thousand years,

the eruptions have continued with short intermissions;—it is true they are comparatively small, and there is no exhausting flow of lava from the crater: still how the materials for such constant explosion is kept up, is astonishing. There is more volcanic sand and black ashes on Stromboli, than on Etna or Volcano; but vines grow in it luxuriantly. Transparent chrysolites are found, of different colours; stones or lavas also of various shades, some red, others green, and scorixæ of all forms and consistency. There is a marvellous story on legal authentic record of an English Divine being thrown into Stromboli by the Devil.* If such be his power over the Priests, we may fervently join in the response—‘The Lord have mercy upon the people!’

In a grotto over the sea, steel specimens† are found; but, as half of it has tumbled in, they told us it was impossible to see it: Grattan and Mr. Crotley went to explore the place,

* A record may be authentic, though the matter recorded be false.—
See the Appendix, vol. ii.

† These are very curious productions, the Commandant gave me one or two.

while I was on my second trip to the mountain, and they fully confirmed the report.

6th.—At 8 o'clock this morning, were glad to find the sea had fallen, the wind perfectly fair, and a good breeze. After breakfast, we therefore sailed from hence, and had a good view of the volcano as we passed, and of one or two smart eruptions: We also saw, in day-light, the place we in vain attempted to ascend on Monday night.

The Lipari Islands are eight in number, viz. Lipari, Volcano, Stromboli, Alicudi, Filicudi, Salina, Panaria, and Vaseso. Panaria is half way between Lipari and Stromboli: I think the distance full forty miles. We sailed at 9 o'clock, A.M. and arrived near Lipari before 3 o'clock: As we had sufficient time, we landed at the White Mountain, called Campo Bianco: it is composed of pumice stone:* After viewing it, we re-embarked, and got into Lipari harbour in an hour. As we were telegraphed early in the morning, our worthy and hospitable

* There are great quantities of (obsidian) volcanic glass found here exactly resembling black bottle glass.

friend, the Governor, had dinner ready at the castle, and was at the landing place to receive us; we were also saluted with three rounds from four Sicilian gun-boats. Doctor Mosely would not accompany us to Stromboli, but waited here till we returned.

7th.—This morning I walked all round the castle, which is in a bold situation, but is commanded by the hills over it on the land side; it is also much out of repair. This castle and old wall, formerly called the Citadel, contains a part of the town and the Madre Chiesa, and the Governor has good apartments in it. The garrison consists of a Greek regiment in the Neapolitan service, and some militia.

I visited the Church, which, like all in Sicily, has several beautiful marble altars, and some fresco pictures, with all the usual horrible subjects of broiling, fleaing, or beheading saints; and there is also a large silver Saint, the patron of the Church; however, he could not save it from a thunder-bolt, which struck the front two years ago at the top, and rent the wall to the very bottom. I next went to call on the Bishop; and, in his garden, saw a Roman Mosaic pavement lately discovered, and a rough sarcophagus, in which there was a body, but which,

on being exposed to the air, though apparently perfect, absolutely flew into dust, and no part could be preserved. After this, I obtained a guide and the Governor's horse, and went to the top of the Mount Guarda, from whence there is a commanding view, particularly of Volcano.

The Mountain Guárda is entirely volcanic, and immediately under it an immense extinguished crater. I was surprised to read in Spallanzani, that there was no characterised crater discoverable in Lipari. I think I saw many this day, and certainly so circumstanced as to leave no room for doubt. Fazelli thought as I do; and though he describes them as of great antiquity, expressly says, the traces remain:—"Insula hæc ignem pluribus crateribus olim evomebat cujus ora et vestigia cernuntur." Flames formerly issued from many craters in this island, the apertures and remains of which are still visible.

The convulsions by which all these islands (an Archipelago of fire) were formed, must have been very powerful. They probably were forced out of the sea; but so long since that there are no memorials of their origin. Lipari certainly existed before the Trojan war; for, according

to Homer, Ulysses landed there after that famous siege. Though Lipari is full of vitrified matter, there is also granite, some of which Dolomieu says, has been fused into pumice. I heard there was porphyry, but did not see any thing resembling it. The glass found is both black and spotted, great quantities are taken up on Campo Bianco, or the Pumice Mountain, which, from the sea, has an extraordinary appearance, being entirely split into fissures and gullies.

The Prickly Pear has the quality of pulverising the hardest lava; and the cinder or porous lava is decomposed by time: These lavas, when pulverised, form the most luxuriant soil, and thus old extinguished volcanoes are productive and rich.

I returned by 5 o'clock, and dined with the Bishop, who gave us as splendid and good an entertainment as I ever saw in any country; amongst other civilities, they have dined at 5 o'clock for our accommodation, to give us a long morning, their common dining hour is 1 o'clock: about 9 in the evening, we took leave of the Bishop, and the company assembled at the Governor's: before supper, we were entertained with an excellent Puncionello and a dance.

8th.—This morning, Doctor Mosely, Lieutenant Crotley, and Captain Folks, of the Sicilian Engineers, an officer of ability, to whom I am indebted for the greatest attention, sailed for Melazzo. As I was determined to make another excursion to Volcano, I had a cold dinner put on board my gun-boat. The polite Governor insisted on taking us in his barge (a very fast going one) to Volcano to save time, and even went with us. We left Lipari at noon; and, on landing, we first went to the Grotto, mentioned by Spallanzani. As the Captain of Artillery, at Lipari, told me the greater part had fallen in, I endeavoured to get into what remained, but could not: a smoke and sulphureous vapour came out, and made it impossible to do more than ascertain that the passage, and also half, or more, of the cavern, were nearly choaked up; the cavern contained a lake of sulphureous hot water. The Governor refused to return before I came back, for I determined on again ascending the mountain, and descending into the crater; Grattan staid below with him, but some of our sailors came up. I accomplished my object; and went a second time to the bottom of the crater. The day was very fine, and I was again gratified with beholding this great curiosity;—a volcano, which, though not actually in a state of eruption, is continually

on fire. The smoke is seldom so great as to interrupt a perfect view of these volcanic operations, this volcano is far better worth seeing than Etna or Vesuvius, and I wonder it has not been more noticed. One reason may be assigned for the little attention paid to Volcano, of late years, is the very erroneous, not to say ludicrous, view of it, given in the Travels of Spallanzani, representing the crater not larger than the size of a common room, with a man in the inside, in the attitude of toasting a muffin, who is represented sufficiently large to bestride the crater. Nothing can be more incorrect: I have before said, the crater is equal in size to that of Vesuvius.

I took up some more specimens, and ascended a different way; and, with the assistance of the sailors, was enabled to go again through smoke and sulphur, almost sufficient to produce suffocation; indeed, the heat was not the least difficulty, my boots, gloves, and hands were burnt, and every thing of metal about me, as before, turned black.

At 5 o'clock, P.M. I took leave of the kind Governor, he returning, in his boat, to Lipari: Mr. Grattan and I sailed for Melazzo. We dined in our gun-boat about 6 o'clock;—as day-light left us, the moon rose beau-

tifully, and was this day at its full: part of the passage we sailed; but an advantage of these boats is, that they all row likewise: We have a very fast going boat with twelve oars: it is astonishing how many hours the Sicilians hold out rowing, singing hymns all the while. The distance from Volcano to Melazzo is about twenty-one miles, and we ought to have arrived by 9 o'clock, The Padrone, however, went out of his course near to Tindari, and had to beat and row up all round the Promontory: It was 11 o'clock at night when we landed. Etna looked beautiful by moon-light covered with snow. We went to Doctor Mosely's to drink a bottle of wine, and from thence to our quarters at Baron Proto's.