

Near Santorini, in the Grecian Archipelago, submarine volcanoes have repeatedly burst forth, during the last two thousand years, and formed several new islands: three of the ancient eruptions are recorded by Pliny, Strabo, and Seneca. The last eruption was in the year 1767.

So recently as the year 1831, a submarine volcano, attended with all the phenomena before described, broke out, not far from the island of Sicily. It was visited by some French geologists in September, soon after the eruptions had so far subsided as to allow them to land. Its circumference was found, by measurement, to be seven hundred and eighty yards, its height about two hundred and twenty feet. It appeared to be composed entirely of scorix and loose volcanic fragments; in the centre of these, were some hard globular blocks of lava, but they appeared to have been projected from the crater. The borders of the crater were about two hundred feet high on one side, and about forty on the other; the bottom was filled with orange-coloured water, and covered with a thick froth. White vapours issued continually, not only from the surface of the water, which appeared to be in a state of ebullition, but from innumerable fissures in the whole ground, and from the adjacent sea. The black sand on one side of the island, for about fifty or sixty feet, appeared burning. Bubbles of gas or vapour rose, apparently from the interior of the earth, and they threw up, with a slight detonation, volcanic sand and particles. This volcanic island had risen from the depth of about five or six hundred feet below the surface of the sea. M. Prévôt states his belief that this volcano ejected currents of submarine lava; and though the island is composed of scorix and fragments thrown out of the crater, which is what the French denominate a *crater of eruption*, yet that it was preceded by an upheaving of the soil, (*soulèvement*), and that there is a belt of rocks at the base, which are the border of a crater of elevation, (*cratère de soulèvement*.) M. Prévôt anticipated, that owing to the loose materials of which this island is composed, it would not long resist the action of the waves. Indeed, the island appeared to have suffered considerable degradation before the French geologists landed, for Captain Senhouse, who visited it the preceding month, August 3d, stated its circumference to be about one mile and a quarter. According to Captain Swinburne, who, on the 19th of July, observed some of the earliest eruptions from this volcano, the external diameter of the crater was estimated at from seventy to eighty yards; it was not then more than about twenty feet above the sea. The agitated water in the crater escaped by an opening on one side: he says, "After the volcano had emitted, for some time, its usual quantities of white steam, suddenly the whole aperture was filled with an enormous mass of hot cinders and dust, rushing upwards to the height of several hundred feet, with a loud roaring noise; then falling into the sea, on all sides, with a still louder noise. Renewed explosions of