

and dislocations of the crust of the globe, until the obstruction from the former craters is removed, or new vents are established.

20. VOLCANIC ISLAND IN THE MEDITERRANEAN.—These effects take place alike indiscriminately, either on the land or beneath the waters of the ocean. The volcanic foci of southern Italy are certainly not confined to the land, but extend beneath the bed of the Mediterranean, of which the appearance of new shoals and islands, affords conclusive evidence. Livy informs us that an event of this kind, which took place about the period of the death of Hannibal, together with other volcanic phenomena, so terrified the Roman people, as to induce them to decree a supplication to the gods, to avert the displeasure of heaven, which these prodigies were supposed to denote.*

In 1831 a volcanic island arose in the Mediterranean, about thirty miles off the S.W. coast of Sicily, where previous soundings had ascertained the depth of the sea was 600 feet. It was preceded by a fountain of steam and water, and at length a small island gradually appeared, having a crater on the summit, which ejected scorïæ, ashes, and volumes of vapour; the sea around was covered with floating cinders and dead fish. The scorïæ were of a greyish black colour, as you may observe from this

* "Nuntiatumque erat haud procul Siciliâ insulam quæ nunquam ante fuerat novam editam e mari esse."—LIVY, lib. xxxix. c. 56.