

large part of Central Asia to the Azores, or from China and Tartary through Lake Aral and the Caspian to the Caucasus, and the countries bordering the Black Sea, then again through part of Asia Minor to Syria, and westward to the Grecian islands, Greece, Naples, Sicily, the southern part of Spain, Portugal, and the Azores. Respecting the eastern extremity of this line in China, we have little information, but many violent earthquakes are known to have occurred there. The volcano said to have been in eruption in the seventh century in Central Tartary is situated on the northern declivity of the Celestial Mountains, not far distant from the large lake called Issikoul; and Humboldt mentions other vents and solfataras in the same quarter, which are all worthy of notice, as being far more distant from the ocean (260 geographical miles) than any other known points of eruption.

We find on the western shores of the Caspian, in the country round Baku, a tract called the Field of Fire, which continually emits inflammable gas, while springs of naphtha and petroleum occur in the same vicinity, as also mud volcanos. Syria and Palestine abound in volcanic appearances, and very extensive areas have been shaken, at different periods, with great destruction of cities and loss of lives. Continual mention is made in history of the ravages committed by earthquakes in Sidon, Tyre, Berytus, Laodicea, and Antioch, and in the Island of Cyprus. The country around the Dead Sea appears evidently, from the accounts of modern travellers, to be volcanic. A district near Smyrna, in Asia Minor, was termed by the Greeks *Catacecaumene*, or "the burnt up," where there is a large arid territory, without trees, and with a cindery soil.* This country has been lately visited (1841) by Mr. W. J. Hamilton, who found in the valley of the Hermus perfect cones of scorïæ, with lava-streams, like those of Auvergne, conforming to the existing river-channels, and with their surface undecomposed.†

Grecian Archipelago.—Proceeding westwards, we reach the Grecian Archipelago, where Santorin, afterwards to be described, is the grand centre of volcanic action.

It was Von Buch's opinion that the volcanos of Greece were arranged in a line running N. N. W. and S. S. E., as represented in the map, plate 6., and that they afforded the only example in Europe of active volcanos having a linear direction‡; but M. Virlet, on the contrary, announces as the result of his investigations, made during the late French expedition to the Morea, that there is no one determinate line of direction for the volcanic phenomena in Greece, whether we follow the points of eruptions, or the earthquakes, or any other signs of igneous agency.§

Macedonia, Thrace, and Epirus, have always been subject to earthquakes, and the Ionian Isles are continually convulsed.

* Strabo, ed. Fal., p. 900.

† *Researches in Asia Minor*, vol. ii. p. 39.

‡ See plate of volcanic bands, p. 130.

§ Virlet, *Bulletin de la Soc. Géol. de France*, tom. iii. p. 109.