

great crater has been partially sealed up, just as the violent eruptions of Ischia or that of Monte Nuovo coincided with the dormant state of Vesuvius.

*Santorin.*—The Gulf of Santorin, in the Grecian Archipelago, has been for two thousand years a scene of active volcanic operations. The largest of the three outer islands of the group (to which the general name of Santorin is given) is called Thera (or sometimes Santorin), and forms more than two-thirds of the circuit of the gulf (see map, fig. 47., p. 426.). The length of the exterior coast-line of this and the other two islands named Therasia and Aspronisi, taken together, amounts to about thirty miles, and that of the inner coast-line of the same islands to about eighteen miles. In the middle of the gulf are three other islands, called the Little, the New, and the Old “Kaimenis,” or “Burnt Islands.” The accompanying map has been reduced from a recent survey executed in 1848 by Captain Graves, R.N., and shortly to be published by the Admiralty.

Pliny informs us that the year 186, B.C., gave birth to the Old Kaimeni, also called Hieria, or the “Sacred Isle,” and in the year 19 of our era “Thia” (the Divine) made its appearance above water, and was soon joined by subsequent eruptions to the older island, from which it was only 250 paces distant. The Old Kaimeni also increased successively in size in 726 and in 1427. A century and a half later, in 1573, another eruption produced the cone and crater called Micra-Kaimeni, or “the Small Burnt Island.” The next great event which we find recorded occurred in 1650, when a submarine outbreak violently agitated the sea, at a point three and a half miles to the N. E. of Thera, and which gave rise to a shoal (see A in the map) carefully examined during the late survey in 1848 by Captain Graves, and found to have ten fathoms water over it, the sea deepening around it in all directions. This eruption lasted three months, covering the sea with floating pumice. At the same time an earthquake destroyed many houses in Thera, while the sea broke upon the coast and overthrew two churches, exposing to view two villages, one on each side of the mountain of St. Stephen, both of which must have been overwhelmed by showers of volcanic matter during some previous eruptions of unknown date.\* The accompanying evolution of sulphur and hydrogen issuing from the sea killed more than fifty persons, and above 1000 domestic animals. A wave, also, 50 feet high, broke upon the rocks of the Isle of Nio, about four leagues distant, and advanced 450 yards into the interior of the island of Sikino. Lastly, in 1707 and 1709 Nea-Kaimeni, or the New Burnt Island, was formed between the two others, Palajia and Micra, the Old and Little isles. This isle was composed originally of two distinct parts; the first which rose was called the White Island, composed of a mass of pumice, extremely porous. Goree, the Jesuit, who was then in Santorin, says that the rock “cut like bread,” and that, when the inhabitants landed on it, they found a multitude of full-grown fresh oysters adhering to it, which they

\* Virlet, Bull. de la Soc. Géol. de France, tom. iii. p. 103.