

also observed to exist among the volcanic mountains Orizaba, Popocatepetl, Jorullo, and Colima; and I have shown\* that they all lie in one direction between  $18^{\circ} 59'$  and  $19^{\circ} 12'$  north latitude, and are situated in a transverse fissure running from sea to sea. The volcano of Jorullo broke forth on the 29th of September, 1759, exactly in this direction, and over the same transverse fissure, being elevated to a height of 1604 feet above the level of the surrounding plain. The mountain only once emitted an eruption of lava, in the same manner as is recorded of Mount Epomeo in Ischia, in the year 1302. But although Jorullo, which is eighty miles from any active volcano, is in the strict sense of the word a new mountain, it must not be compared with Monte Nuovo, near Puzzuolo, which first appeared on the 19th of September, 1538, and is rather to be classed among craters of elevation. I believe that I have furnished a more natural explanation of the eruption of the Mexican volcano, in comparing its appearance to the elevation of the Hill of Methone, now Methana, in the peninsula of Trœzene. The description given by Strabo and Pausanias of this elevation, led one of the Roman poets, most celebrated for his richness of fancy, to develop views which agree in a remarkable manner with the theory of modern geognosy. "Near Trœzene is a tumulus, steep and devoid of trees, once a plain, now a mountain. The vapors inclosed in dark caverns in vain seek a passage by which they may escape. The heaving earth, inflated by the force of the compressed vapors, expands like a bladder filled with air, or like a goat-skin. The ground has remained thus inflated, and the high projecting eminence has been solidified by time into a naked rock." Thus picturesquely, and, as analogous phenomena justify us in believing, thus truly has Ovid described that great natural phenomenon which occurred 282 years before our era, and, consequently, 45 years before the volcanic separation of Thera (Santorino) and Therasia, between Trœzene and Epidaurus, on the same spot where Russegger has found veins of trachyte.†

\* Humboldt, *Essai Politique sur la Nouv. Espagne*, t. ii., p. 173-175.

† Ovid's description of the eruption of Methone (*Metam.*, xv., p. 296 306):

"Near Trœzene stands a hill, exposed in air  
 To winter winds, of leafy shadows bare:  
 This once was level ground; but (strange to tell)  
 'Th' included vapors, that in caverns dwell,  
 Laboring with colic pangs, and close confined,  
 In vain sought issue for the rumbling wind:  
 Yet still they heaved for vent, and heaving still,  
 Enlarged the concave and shot up the hill,