

Santorino is the most important of all the *islands of eruption* belonging to volcanic chains.* "It combines within it

As breath extends a bladder, or the skins
Of goats are blown t' inclose the hoarded wines;
The mountain yet retains a mountain's face,
And gathered rubbish heads the hollow space."

Dryden's Translation.

This description of a dome-shaped elevation on the continent is of great importance in a geognostical point of view, and coincides to a remarkable degree with Aristotle's account (*Meteor.*, ii., 8, 17-19) of the upheaval of islands of eruption: "The heaving of the earth does not cease till the wind (*ἀνεμος*) which occasions the shocks has made its escape into the crust of the earth. It is not long ago since this actually happened at Heraclea in Pontus, and a similar event formerly occurred at Hiera, one of the Æolian Islands. A portion of the earth swelled up, and with loud noise rose into the form of a hill, till the mighty urging blast (*πνεῦμα*) found an outlet, and ejected sparks and ashes which covered the neighborhood of Lipari, and even extended to several Italian cities." In this description, the vesicular distension of the earth's crust (a stage at which many trachytic mountains have remained) is very well distinguished from the eruption itself. Strabo, lib. i., p. 59 (Casaubon), likewise describes the phenomenon as it occurred at Methone: near the town, in the Bay of Hermione, there arose a flaming eruption; a fiery mountain, seven (?) stadia in height, was then thrown up, which during the day was inaccessible from its heat and sulphureous stench, but at night evolved an agreeable odor (?), and was so hot that the sea boiled for a distance of five stadia, and was turbid for full twenty stadia, and also was filled with detached masses of rock. Regarding the present mineralogical character of the peninsula of Methana, see Fiedler, *Reise durch Griechenland*, th. i., s. 257-263.

* [I am indebted to the kindness of Professor E. Forbes for the following interesting account of the island of Santorino, and the adjacent islands of Neokaimeni and Microkaimeni. "The aspect of the bay is that of a great crater filled with water, Thera and Therasia forming its walls, and the other islands being after-productions in its center. We sounded with 250 fathoms of line in the middle of the bay, between Therasia and the main islands, but got no bottom. Both these islands appear to be similarly formed of successive strata of volcanic ashes, which, being of the most vivid and variegated colors, present a striking contrast to the black and cindery aspect of the central isles. Neokaimeni, the last-formed island, is a great heap of obsidian and scoriæ. So, also, is the greater mass, Microkaimeni, which rises up in a conical form, and has a cavity or crater. On one side of this island, however, a section is exposed, and cliffs of fine pumiceous ash appear stratified in the greater islands. In the main island, the volcanic strata abut against the limestone mass of Mount St. Elias in such a way as to lead to the inference that they were deposited in a sea bottom in which the present mountain rose as a submarine mass of rock. The people at Santorino assured us that subterranean noises are not unfrequently heard, especially during calms and south winds, when they say the water of parts of the bay becomes the color of sulphur. My own impression is, that this group of islands constitutes a crater of elevation, of which the outer ones are the remains of the walls, while the central group are of later origin, and consist partly of upheaved sea bottoms