

Daily Mountaineer.

VOLCANIC WONDER IN THE ARCH-PELAGO.

The sudden rise of a volcanic island in the Grecian Archipelago is one of the most remarkable phenomena of modern times. A correspondent at Patroque, Long Island, sends the N. Y. Herald an extract from a private letter, written near the scene of the occurrence, giving following interesting details in addition to those we have already published,
 SYRA, Greece, February 15, 1866.

*** The island of Santorina has been in eruption for six whole days, some say more. It is about 60 miles from here, and the water for a long distance around the island is boiling and steaming to a tremendous degree. An island has sprung up from under the sea, not far distant from Santorini, which seems to be a mountain of coal or lava, and is now about 500 feet above the surface. Day before yesterday a special steamer was sent by the local authorities of this place to inspect the appearance of the new island and the condition of Santorini. The French Consul joined the expedition. Among the returned passengers was one gentleman who landed on the new island, and brought back in his pocket five eggs, cooked hard, which some unlucky sea bird had prematurely deposited upon the new land, which we have named the "Phenomenon."

The new island is several miles in circumference; but being of volcanic origin, it is supposed it will disappear when the internal action subsides. The water in its vicinity creates a great tumult, like a boiling cauldron, and at night shows white flames.

There is one curious fact in this connection. About ten years ago a vessel of considerable size was sunk near the Island of Santorini, and now all at once up comes this vessel, as good as new. Yours,
 R. R.

THE UNITED STATES CONSUL'S DESPATCH.

The United States Consul at Civras, Greece, under date of February 15, 1866, transmits to the Department of State a translation of a series of observations commenced the 23d of January on the renewal of activity of the submarine volcano at Santorina. It appears that remarkable phenomena have for several days occupied the attention of the inhabitants of that place. On the 8th instant a low rumbling sound was heard from time to time at New Cansein, and especially at the place called Vulean, where the miners' wells are situated. At the same time large stones detached themselves from different points on the island and rolled continually down the sides. The morning of the 19th the walls of buildings were covered with cracks, as was also the ground. Toward noon the rumblings began to be more frequent, till they seemed like the successive detonations of artillery, the sea was violently agitated, and an innumerable quantity of bubbles rose incessantly from the depths; on the surface and at the beach was seen white vapor with a sulphurous odor. The afternoon of the same day the ebullition of the sea increased, and the soil at the water's edge commenced gradually to sink down, and about 5 o'clock, on the sea and western side of the same port flames were seen forming a crucial fire of ten to fifteen square metres at its base, and from four to five metres in height. After an hour these flames entirely disappeared. A nearer examination was then made, when it was discovered that a portion of New Cansein was broken to pieces and the island was completely divided by a chasm, and four little lakes of pure and quite sweet water were seen, whose size was steadily increasing. As the party of observation advanced toward the focus of volcanic action they noticed a sulphurous vapor; white and suffoca-

ting vapors arose from the agitated sea and from time to time spots of greenish color appeared, proving that the vapors which arose were of hydrosulphurous and hydrophosphoric nature. At the time the Consul's despatches were mailed the odor and smoke were becoming more intense, and at times red flames were seen at the centre of volcanic action, and the smoke became thicker and of a deeper color. It is feared that if these phenomena continue the whole island may be sunk.

GRAPHIC REPORT OF AN ENGLISH CAPTAIN.

[From the London Times March 8th.]

Her Majesty's ship *Surprise*, Commander Tyson, which had been despatched to Santorini to render assistance to the inhabitants, returned to Malta on Friday, the 23d of February. We have been kindly favored with the following interesting particulars of the recent volcanic eruption: As soon as Santorini was sighted by the *Surprise*, a dense white mass of vapor was observed rising from the sea, which appeared to be boiling from some unknown cause, and when the Island was approached a strange sight was seen—the sea evidently was boiling, and clouds of the whitest steam rushed out, soaring heavenwards like an enormous avalanche, and looking like snow. Something black was then seen rising slowly from the sea, which afterwards turned out to be no less than an island springing from the deep. It appears that there were no earthquakes, but convulsions of nature, caused by volcanic islands having been thrown up from the sea; and as violent eruptions had taken place the inhabitants were greatly alarmed, but at the time the *Surprise* arrived no immediate danger was apprehended. The position of the vessel was a very good one to watch the eruptions from the volcano on the burning island that had lately risen from the deep. The sea for several miles looked very strange, the sulphur giving it a yellowish appearance, and round the new volcanic island the sea was boiling at some 100 yards distance from the shore. The steam rose with great grandeur, the whole island emitting smoke and sulphurous vapors, colored by the flames inside the volcano, in some places being cracked, and through the fissures an immense mass of red hot lava was visible. The volcano was in a constant state of life, and an eruption took place on the morning of the arrival of the *Surprise*. A black mass of vapor was vomited from the volcano pouring upwards; but the fury of the eruption was soon expended, and it suddenly ceased.

On the following day her Majesty's ships *Phabe* and *Tyrian* arrived to the succor of the island. A Greek man-of-war had come in, and the next day a Russian frigate was seen approaching, but she did not seem to like appearances, and kept at a distance, watching the phenomenon for hours before going closer in. The second night after the arrival of the *Surprise* another eruption took place. The roar was very fierce, smoke poured forth from the volcano with terrific fury, and large blocks of rock and stone were hurled into the air, the whole presenting a most imposing sight. During that night it was said that a new island had been thrown up; the one pointed out was 300 yards long, and was a black smoking mass. Close to the anchorage of the *Surprise* there had been a place called "Mineral creek," which was then no more; a large hill had risen out of it. It made its appearance before the arrival of that vessel, but it rose higher and higher during her presence there, while the old island was sinking gradually, as if about to return to the depths of the sea from which it had risen.

On this sinking island were several houses, many of which were gone altogether, and others were being washed by the sea; of one house, there was little more than the roof and chimney top above the water, while a building sank and rose again. It was remark-

able that rocks were constantly appearing above the sea and then disappearing; and hence the position taken up by the *Surprise* was not very pleasant. On the second night a slight concussion was felt two or three times on board, and as island had been springing up in the immediate neighborhood, it appeared likely that one would come up under the ship's bottom. At the time the wind and sea were heavy, and the vessel drifted rapidly in the direction of the volcano, around which the sea was boiling, and a world of steam, vapor and smoke arising. The *Surprise* immediately got up steam. A large number of houses were buried in the lava and by the new hill that rose from Mineral creek; but, fortunately, no lives were lost, as timely warning had been given and the inhabitants had escaped. The damage done to property has not so great as might have been expected.

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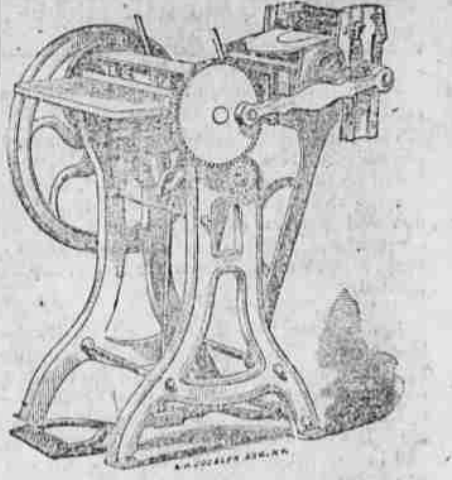
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