of liquid lava, ſeemingly very heavy, was lifted up just high enough to clear the rim of the crater, and take its way down the ſides of the mountain. This lava, having run violently for same hours, ſuddenly ceaſed, juſt before it had reached the cultivated parts of the mountain, near four miles from the ſpot whence it issued. The heat, all this day, was in­tolerable at the towns of Somma and Ottaiano ; and was ſenſibly felt at Palma and Lauri, which are much farther off. Reddiſh aſhes fell ſo thick on the two former, that the air was darkened, ſo that objects could not be diſtinguiſhed at the diſtance of ten feet. Long filaments of a vitrified matter, like ſpun glaſs, were mixed, and fell with theſe aſhes ; ſeveral birds in cages were ſuffocated, and the leaves of the trees in the neighbourhood of Somma were covered with white and very corroſive ſalt.

About 12 at night, on the 7th, the fermentation of the mountain ſeemed greatly to increaſe. Our author was watching the motions of the volcano from the mole at Na­ples, which has a full view of it. Several glorious pictureſque effects had been obſerved from the reflection of the deep red fire within the crater of Veſuvius, and which mounted high amongſt thoſe huge clouds on the top of it : when a ſummer ſtorm, called in that country a *tropea,* came on ſuddenly, and blended its heavy watery clouds with the ſulphureous and mineral ones, which were already like ſo many other mountains piled up on the top of the volcano. At this moment a fountain of fire was ſhot up to an incre­dible height, caſting ſo bright a light, that the ſmalleſt objects were clearly diſtſhguiſhable at any place within six miles or more of Veſuvius. The black ſtormy clouds, paſſing ſwiftly over, and at times covering the whole or a part of the bright column of fire, at other times clearing away and giving a full view of it, with the various tints produced by its reverberated light on the white clouds above in contraſt with the pale flaſhes of forked lightning that attended the tropea, formed ſuch a ſcene as no power of art can expreſs. One of his Sicilian majeſty’s gamekeepers, who was out in the fields near Ottaiano whilſt this ſtorm was at its height, was ſurpriſed to find the drops of rain ſcald his face and hands ; a phenomenon probably occaſioned by the clouds having acquired a great degree of heat in paſſing through the above mentioned column of fire.

On the 8th the mountain was quiet till towards six o’clock in the evening, when a great ſmoke began to gather over its crater ; and about an hour after a rumbling ſubterraneous noiſe was heard in the neighbourhood of the volcano ; the uſual throws of red-hot ſtones and scoriae began and increaſed every inſtant. The crater, viewed through a teleſcope, ſeemed much enlarged by the violence of laſt night’s exploſions, and the little mountain on the top was entirely gone. About nine o’clock a moſt violent report was heard at Portici and its neighbourhood, which ſhook the houſes to ſuch a degree as made the inhabitants run out into the ſtreets. Many windows were broken, and walls cracked by the concuſſion of the air on this occaſion, though the noiſe was but faintly heard at Naples. In an inſtant a fountain of liquid tranſparent fire began to rise, and gradually increaſing, arrived at laſt at the amazing height of ten thouſand feet and upwards. Puffs of ſmoke, as black as can poſſibly be imagined, ſucceeded one another haſtily, and ac­companied the red-hot, tranſparent, and liquid lava, inter­rupting its ſplendid brightneſs here and there by patches of the darkeſt hue. Within theſe puffs of ſmoke, at the very moment of emiſſion, a bright but pale electrical fire was ob­ſerved playing briſkly about in zig-zag lines. The wind was ſouth-weſt, and, though gentle, was ſufficient to carry theſe puffs of ſmoke out of the column of fire ; and a collec­tion of them by degrees formed a black and extenſive cur­tain behind it ; in other parts of the ſky it was perfectly clear, and the ſtars bright. The fiery fountain, of ſuch immenſe magnitude, on the dark ground juſt mentioned, made the fineſt contraſt imaginable ; and the blaze of it reflected from the ſurface of the ſea, which was at that time perfect­ly ſmooth, added greatly to this ſublime view.

The lava, mixed with ſtones and ſcoria, having riſen to the amazing height already mentioned, was partly directed by the wind towards Ottaiano, and partly falling, ſtill red- hot and liquid, upon the top of Veſuvius, covered its whole cone, part of that of the ſummit of Somma, and the valley between them. The falling matter, being nearly as infla­med and vivid as that which was continually iſſuing freſh from the crater, formed with it one complete body of fire, which could not be leſs than two miles and a half in breadth, and of the extraordinary height above mentioned, caſt a heat to the diſtance of at leaſt six miles round. The bruſh- wood on the mountain of Somma was ſoon in a blaze, and the flame of it being of a different colour from the deep red of the matter thrown out by the volcano, and from the ſilvery blue of the electrical fire, ſtill added to the contraſt of this moſt extraordinary ſcene.

The black cloud, increaſing greatly, once bent towards Na­ples, and threatened the city with ſpeedy deſtruction ; for it was charged with electrical fire, which kept conſtantly darting about in bright zig-zag lines. This fire, however, rarely quitted the cloud, but uſually returned to the great column of fire whence it proceeded ; though once or twice it was ſeen to fall on the top of Somma, and ſet fire to ſome dry graſs and buſhes. Fortunately the wind carried back the cloud juſt as it reached the city, and had begun to occaſion great alarm. The column of fire, however, ſtill continued, and diffuſed ſuch a ſtrong light, that the moſt minute ob­jects could be diſcerned at the diſtance of ten miles or more from the mountain. Mr Morris informed our author, that at Sorrento, which is twelve miles diſtant from Veſuvius, he read the title-page of a book by that volcanic light.

All this time the miſerable inhabitants of Ottaiano were involved in the utmoſt diſtreſs and danger by the ſhowers of ſtones which fell upon them, and which, had the eruptioncontinued for a longer time, would moſt certainly have re­duced their town to the ſame ſituation with Herculaneum and Pompeii. The mountain of Somma, at the foot of which the town of Ottaiano is ſituated, hides Veſuvius from the view of its inhabitants ; so that till the eruption became conſiderable it was not viſible to them. On Sunday night, when the noiſe increaſed, and the fire began to appear above the mountain of Somma, many of the inhabitants flew to the churches, and others were preparing to quit the town, when a ſudden and violent report was heard ; ſoon after which they found themſelves involved in a thick cloud of ſmoke and aſhes : a horrid claſhing noiſe was heard in the air, and preſently fell a vaſt ſhower of ſtones and large pieces of scoriæ, ſome of which were of the diameter of ſeven or eight feet, which muſt have weighed more than a hundred pounds before they were broken, as ſome of the fragments which Sir William Hamilton found in the ſtreets ſtill weighed up­wards of 60 pounds. When theſe large vitrified masses either ſtruck againſt one another in the air, or fell on the ground, they broke in many pieces, and covered a large ſpace of ground with vivid ſparks of fire, which communi­cated their heat to every thing that was combuſtible. Theſe masses were formed of the liquid lava ; the exterior parts of which were become black and porous by cooling in their fall through ſuch a vaſt ſpace ; whilſt the interior parts, leſs expoſed, retained an extreme heat, and were perfectly red.

In an inſtant the town and country about it was on fire in