

The whole island of Strombolo is a mountain, that rises suddenly from the sea. It is about ten miles in circumference; and its crater is absolutely inaccessible. In clear weather it is discoverable at the distance of twenty-five leagues, so that its visible horizon cannot be less than five hundred miles, which requires a very considerable elevation; and in fact some say that it is higher than Vesuvius.

The island of Lipari, from which all the rest take their name, is by far the largest, as well as the most fertile. By the description of Aristotle, it appears that it was in his time what Strombolo is in ours, the constant lighthouse of mariners, as its fires were never extinguished.

On the 19th, they were pretty close to the coast of Sicily, which is low, but finely variegated. The opposite shore of Calabria is high and covered with the finest verdure. It was almost calm, so that they had time to get a complete view of the famous rock of Scylla on the Calabrian side, Cape Pylorus on the Sicilian, and the celebrated straights of the Faro, that run between them. At the distance of some miles they heard the roaring of the current, like the noise of some large impetuous river, confined within its narrow banks. This increased in proportion as they advanced, till they saw the water in many places raised to a considerable height, and forming large eddies or whirlpools.

When the weather is calm, there is little danger; but when the waves meet with this violent current, it makes a dreadful sea, in which ships are frequently wrecked. Our author, however, does not think that this place comes up to the formidable description which the ancients