

culaneum and Pompeii in 79, was comparatively insignificant. Much has been published of the exhumation of those buried cities, but what would we not give for a contemporary record like this book of Heilprin's of the catastrophe in the beautiful bay of Naples. The letter of Pliny by its meagreness but accentuates the fulness and

done its work and a sheet of rising flame told that the work was completed. In an instant the whole city was ablaze as if it were a single brazier. The annihilation of so large a number of lives in a very few minutes, not more than from three to five," says our author, "renders impressively appalling the nature of this cataclysm."



RUE VICTOR HUGO, SAINT PIERRE.

From "The Tragedy of Martinique." J. B. Lippincott Co. Copyright.

scientific detail of Dr. Heilprin's magnificent work.

The destruction of St. Pierre, by which thirty thousand human beings were destroyed, was almost instantaneous. A dense cloud issued from the fermenting volcano and swept with dazzling velocity over the city. "In a few moments the fiery messenger of death had

Yet the people of Martinique were not without warning. Days before the catastrophe, the wife of the American consul wrote: "The smell of sulphur is so strong that horses on the street stop and snort, and some of them drop in their harness and die from suffocation. Many of the people are obliged to wear wet handkerchiefs to protect