

the upper portion of the mountain was considerably reduced in its dimensions. Strabo, the geographer, about the year A.D. 25, describes it as a truncated cone covered with vegetation nearly to its summit. Its configuration, as it then presented itself to the eye from Naples, can easily be imagined by supposing the circle of which Monte Somma is a segment to be continued all round, and the line of the present inclination of the mountain on the south-east side to be produced from the slight rise called Pedamontina until it meets this circle, the axis of the whole cone remaining the same as it is now. The portion which we thus in imagination supply, is supposed to have been broken down by the weight of the lava which accumulated in the crater after the re-awakening of the volcano in A.D. 79.

The north-eastern side of Somma is to this day a smiling slope of vineyards, gardens, farm-houses, and villages. In the days of Strabo, the south-western slopes presented a similar scene. The poet Virgil, who, as I have already said, was familiar with this Campanian coast, and has celebrated in his verse its most striking localities, does not fail to notice Vesuvius; but he does not give us to understand that he was aware of its volcanic character. From Strabo, however, we learn that it was known to be volcanic. Plutarch, in his life of Crassus, mentions a curious use to which the crater in its quiescent state was once put. Spartacus, the Gladiator, who, in B.C. 73, headed a formidable insurrection against the Roman government, entrenched himself here with his forces, after his defeat by Crassus. The swordsman had doubtless defended himself in many an arena before, but in none on so grand a scale as this. Beseiged by the prætor Clodius, who thought it simply sufficient to watch the entrance to the crater—the ravine to which I have already referred as existing between Somma and the present cone—Spartacus and his men let themselves down over the precipice by means of the wild vines which grew there, and suddenly and successfully attacked their assailants in the rear.

The poet Martial, who saw the mountain a few years after the desolating eruption of A.D. 79, records the lamentable change which had taken place in its appearance. "These heights," he says, "Bacchus loved more than his own Nysa; here the rustic Satyrs held their dances; Venus preferred the spot to Lacedæmon; here Hercules himself had sojourned; but now everything lies prostrate beneath fiery floods and melancholy scoriae."

It may be here stated that the name Vesuvius—which by Roman writers is variously written Vesevus, Vesvius, Vesbius—is said by Neapolitan scholars to have been given to the mountain by the Phœnicians, who, at periods prior to the old Greek foretime, formed settlements along the Italian coasts. Its Syriac form was *Vo-seveev*, "the place of flame." Similarly, *Herculaneum* has been derived from *Horoh-kalie*, "pregnant with fire;" *Pompeii* from *Pum-peeah*, "the mouth of a furnace;" and *Stabiae* from *Seteph*, "overflow."

In the remarks which I now offer on Pompeii, I simply speak of the place as one of the accessories of Vesuvius. To do justice to Pompeii, in an archaeological point of view, would require a separate paper. It is well known that this city was not overwhelmed with molten lava, but by showers of sand, ashes,