

walk carefully, as the ground is often undermined and lives have been lost here.

Japan exhibits many of these and other forms of volcanic action, and there are several important volcanoes still more or less active. The principal of these is Asama, nearly one hundred miles N. W. of Yokohama. Mr. Harrington and his brother ascended this mountain (8,280 feet high), and found that the present crater lies in the centre of a much larger and older one, the broken rim of which is well marked, although it has been nearly filled up. At the time of their visit the volcano was more than usually active, the vapours filling the crater (said to be one-quarter of a mile in diameter) and rising several hundred feet above it. After the great earthquake of 28th October the mountain was emitting flames and ashes. This mountain, like many of the others, evidences that the craters of remote times were much larger than present ones, and in some cases a series of cones and craters has been built up.

Among the other mountains climbed by Mr. Harrington was the sacred cone of Fuji, which rises to a height of 11,365 feet, with the outline of an inverted fan. Although the slope is not very great, the footing is for much of the way very trying, and toward the summit the climb becomes difficult. Starting from Gotemba at 6.30 a.m., the top was reached about 5.30 p.m., and the night was passed there. This mountain is climbed annually by great numbers of pilgrims during the months of July and August. It has not been in eruption since 1707, but although the crater is partly filled with snow and ice, there are signs that it is not completely extinct, as steam sometimes issues from cracks outside the crater on the east side.

Japan at first sight appears to be a very fertile country, but closer examination shows that tillable land forms the smaller part of the Empire, and that much of the land cultivated is of a very poor quality, being largely composed of volcanic tufa and debris. According to recent authorities, it was found that 37% (not including Yezo, which is sparsely populated), is classed as desert, including volcanoes, solfataras, scoræ covered plains, etc. Mountain forests cover 23%, so that these two divisions include about two-thirds of the country. Cultivated forests cover 18%, and are an evidence of the attention paid to forestry,