

given way, and have tumbled down the side of the mountain. In the center of the old crater, a cone of three hundred feet in perpendicular height is thrown up, on the summit of which is the present mouth. The ascent of this is very steep and difficult; and it contains several apertures from which smoke is emitted. It is formed of a crust of lava, of the consistence of iron that has once been in a state of fusion.

At the hour of half past ten we gained the top of the peak, which is singularly sharp and pointed, being about seven paces in length, and about five in breadth. The crater is on the north side, and below the summit is about twenty paces in diameter, and is continually emitting smoke. It is almost filled with burnt rocks. From hence several of the neighbouring islands are presented to the view. Pico, seen from the peak, exhibits an appearance no less singular than romantic; the eastern part rises into a narrow ridge, along which are many ancient volcanos which have long ceased to emit smoke, and several of whose craters are now almost concealed by woods, which have sprung up around them. The basis of the peak presents likewise some remains of smaller volcanos, whose fires are now extinguished. The last eruption of the peak, which happened in 1718, burst forth from its side, and destroyed a great part of the vineyards.

It is on elevated situations like this, that is felt *that* influence which the vast and unbounded theatre, at once laid open to contemplation, is capable of exciting,—Those inspirations of nature, so eloquent and so animated—that attractive impulse which attunes the soul to harmony with her works—that distinctive character which the Creator hath imprinted on the heart—innate traces of which peculiar minds are delighted in feeling, amid the rude and sublime masses produced by explosions of the globe, or amid the less stupendous ruins of the monuments of human grandeur.

The whole of the lower grounds of this island are planted with vines; and having been entirely covered with black lava, the labour in digging and clearing it away must have been considerable. When the vines are planted, the surface of the soil is again thinly strewn with lava, over which the young shoots are suffered to run.

The height of the peak from the surface of the water, is about eight thousand perpendicular feet.

When viewed from the sea the peak assumes the appearance of a cone, almost regular, of immense magnitude, having a smaller cone rising from one side of its summit, which is that already described. This mountain rears its elevated head far above the clouds, which float around its craggy sides, and is visible to the extent of many leagues.