

Aniello Langella

IL VESUVIO 15 ANNI DOPO L'ERUZIONE DEL 1631

Una rara descrizione della terra vesuviana a pochissimi anni dalla
tragica devastazione del territorio vesuviano



Vesuvioweb 2019



II
MERCURIO
ITALICO
Communicating
A
Voyage
Made through
Italy
in the yeares
1646 &
1647
by
I. R. Gent.



London Printed for Hum: Moseley, & are to be sold at his Shop at y^e Princes Armes in St Pauls Church-yard. 1648

REGISTRATO

AN

ITINERARY

Contayning

A

VOYAGE,

Made through

ITALY,

In the yeare 1646,
and 1647.

Illustrated with divers figures
of Antiquities.

Never before Published.

By J^O: RAYMOND, Gent.

LONDON,

Printed for Humphrey Moseley, and are to
be sold at his Shop at the Princes
Armes in S^t. Pauls Church-
yard. 1648.



is even, spacious, and like a garden, tis indeed *Campania*. The fertility of which is such, that if the owner have not as much Wine out of one Vine, as will load five Mules, he thinkes his labour ill spent, an incredible, though true argument of the fruitfullnesse, of this Countrey. In the mid-way stands *Anversa*, and eight miles farther *Naples*.

Naples.

This Metropolis of that Kingdome, which takes its denomination from thence, is a Maritimate on the *Mediterranean* shoare.

Tis ancient, though *Neapolis*, and was first cald *Parthenope*. At this present tis reckond the third City in *Italy*, and so great are the delights which nature hath allowed to this place, that tis still frequented by men of high

high condition, and great personages, so that it hath taken the Epethite, *Naples* the Gentle.

The streets of *Naples* are generally well pav'd of free-stone, especially that of *Toledo*, very large and even. Which indeed is necessarie, here in regard of the multitude of Coaches that passe to and fro. The Houses are very uniforme, built flat, at the top to walke on, a notable convenience in these hot parts.

Another like accommodation which this City hath, against the heats is the *Mole*, which is like an Artificiall street casting it selfe into the Sea, hither all the Gentry at the evening retire to take the *Fresco*.

At the end of the *Mole* is the *Fanal*, and underneath a fountaine,

taine, with the statues of the old Dieties of *Parthenope*.

From thence one hath in view the mountanous Iland *Capreas*, the delight of *Tyberius*.

Amongst the Palaces of *Naplee*, the *Vice Kings* then *Duca d' Arcos* is the fairest. There are three Castles, *S. Elmo* above, *Castel nuovo*, *Castello del Ovo* below. The Churches are generally the best I ever came into, fild with Marbles, chiefly the *Carthusians*, the *Jesuits*, the *Bishops Chappell*.

The onely Antiquity within the City, is at the *Theatins* Church, which was a Temple of *Castor* and *Pollux*, the Frontispiece, or Porch of ancient Pillars, with a Greek Inscription over it (which Language this City spake when it was cald

cald *Parthenope*) as likewise
the remnants of their two Sta-
ues yet standing; The Inscrip-
tion is this.

ΤΙΒΕΡΙΟΣ ΙΟΥΛΙΟΣ ΤΑΡΣΟΣ ΔΙ-
ΟΣΚΟΥΡΙΟΣ. ΚΑΙ. ΤΗΙ. ΠΟΛΕΙ.
ΤΟΝ. ΝΑΟΝ. ΚΑΙ. ΤΑ. ΕΝ. ΤΩΙ.
ΝΑΩΙ. ΠΕΛΑΓΟΝ. ΣΕΒΑΣΤΟΙ.
ΑΠΕΛΕΥΘΕΡΟΣ. ΚΑΙ. ΕΠΙΤΡΟ-
ΠΟΣ. ΣΤΗΝΤΕΛΕΣΑΣ ΕΚ. ΤΩΝ.
ΙΛΙΩΝ. ΚΑΘΙΕΡΩΣΕΝ.

It being *May* while we staide
at *Naples*, We saw the famous
Miracle of the bloud of *Santo*
ennaro, carryed in processi-
on.

Naples is extremely popu-
lus, and consequently vicious,
that desires to live a retired,
indeed chaste life must not
stay there; as the gardens are
filled with Oranges, so the houses
are not for Lemmon.

Jusque

Jnsque datum Sceleri, saith
the Poet.

There were at my being there
thirty thousand Courtesans
Registred, that paid taxes for
their pleasure.

The things within *Naples*,
are not to be omitted, yet those
about give farre more satisfac-
tion; and truly if a traveller
Hyperbolise in any part of his
voyage of *Italy*, the most fit
Theame he can take, are the
Wonders a little distant from
Naples; and first the *Tractus*
Puteolannus scatens hominum ac
naturæ miraculis.

Parting for *Pozzuoloes*, on
the left a Suburb by the Sea
side leads to the *Margouline*,
where in the Church cald *San-*
ta Maria Del Parto, is the Se-
pulcher of *Sincerus Sannazari-*
us, with many figures of Mar-
ble

ble excellently cut, and this
Epitaph.

Aetius.

Sincerus.

D. O. M.

*Da Sacro cineri Flores, Hic il-
le Maroni,
Sincerus Musa Proximus ut
tumulo.*

*Vix: Ann. LXXI. Obiit MD
XXX.*

A Countreyman of ours in
honour to that worthy Poet,
hath left this paper of verses
beside his Tombe.

*Sonulus hendeca-Syllabicus
Rithmicus.*

*Vatum Nobile par brevi Ca-
mæna*

*Longum mensus iter; Fleam
necesse*

*Quorum fertur oves? ita iste
flesse.*

Ut

Ut narint lachrimis & uda
Avena
Sed pisces, lepida sed ille
vena
Tam pisces cecinit probe atque
presse
Se tanquam placidos ut ipse
adesse
Cura præstiterint oves arena
Partum Virginis unus arte
rara
In sanctos rotulos modosque
cultos
Alter quem memorant Sybillæ
ad aræ
Annos Vaticinatus ante mul-
tos
Quid mirum est igitur jacere
clara
Ambos Virginis Urbe Conse-
pultos.

Ad Aras

P. Virgilii Maronis, &c.

Ad:

*Act: Sin: Poetarum Prin-
cip:*

*Hugo Hollandus Nobilis Cambo
Britannus.*

Flevit Fixitque

*Autore vero egregio & amico
Alexandro*

*Hebruno Nobili Anglo Bri-
tanno.*

1626. Mart. 5.

Returning back a little, wee came to the entrance of the famous Grotte, over which on the left hand, stands *Virgil's* Tombe upon a high rock, so that it is scarce to be seen by those that passe below, The Guides commonly shewing a false; wherefore some few dayes after we walkt up into it.

Over the Dore of the Gar-
den you passe through to it, is
H this

this Inscription on a Marble.

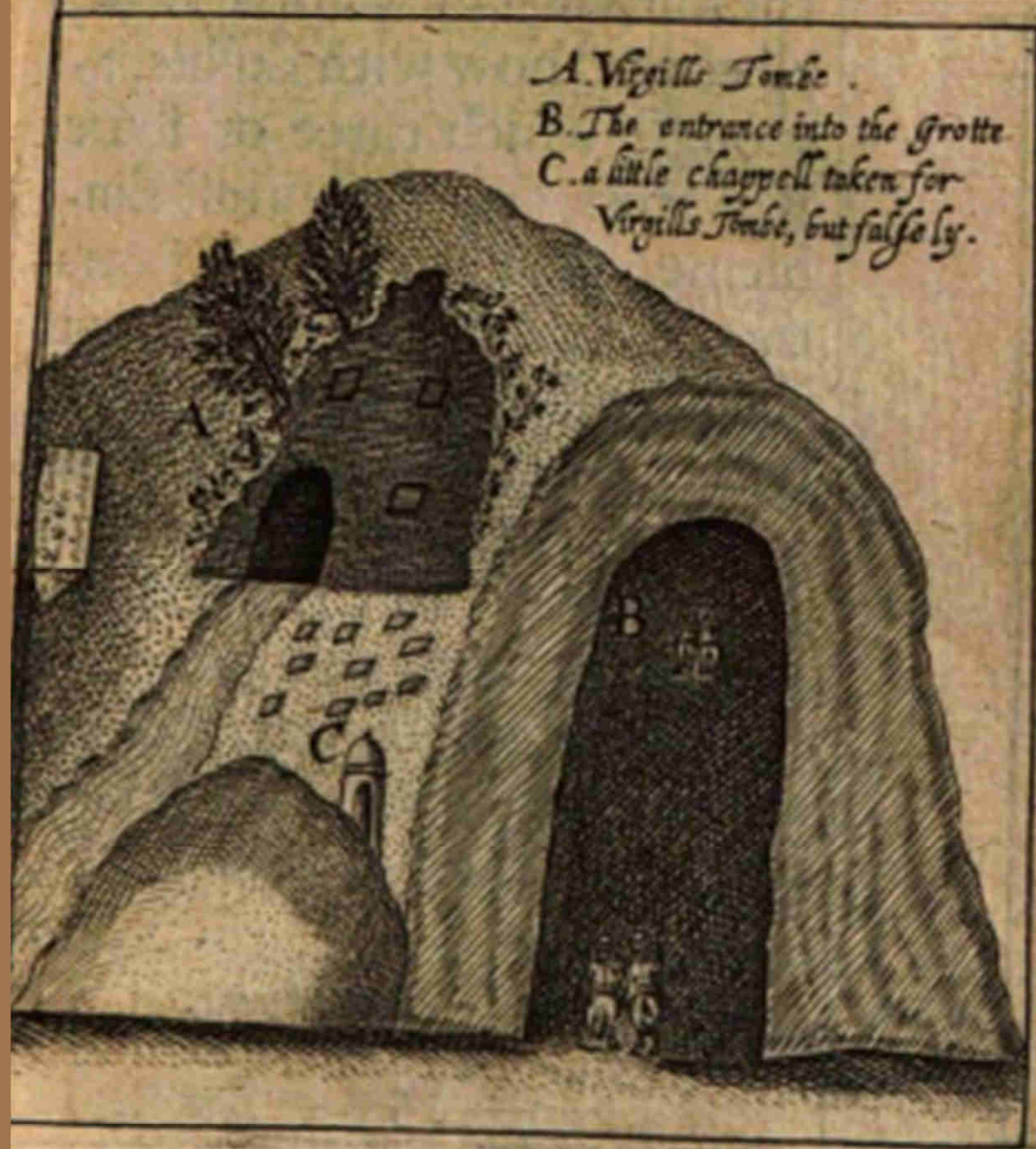
Maronis Urnam.

*Cum Adjacente Monticulo,
extensaque ad Cryptam planitie.
Modiorum trium cum dimidio
circiter Urbano VIII. annuen-
te, &c.*

*Renovanda Mem. Præsentis
Concessionis singulis XXVIII an-
nis in actis Cur Archiepiscopalis.*

Having read this we went into
the Tombe, now of this Forme
and scituation. As in the page
following.

This



*A. Virgills Tombe .
B. The entrance into the Grotte
C. a little chappell taken for
Virgills Tombe, but false ly.*

This Tombe of the Prince of
Po-^{ts} is built in a *Rotunda*, or
Cupola, about five paces long,
within, the walls are of Bricke,
n square afre^r the Roman way,
H 2 the

the outside is of Massive stone, all coverd now with Bushes, amongst which three or foure Bay trees, (an immortall Embleme of the Prince of Poets there interd) shoot forth about the height of a man, round it lye scatterd ruines, that testifie its former beauty, In the rock just opposite to the entrance, where his knowne Epitaph of *Mantua me genuit* was, that being decayed, is plac'd a Marble, stone with these verses.

STAI SI Cencovius.

15 89

*Qui Cineres? Tumuli hæc vestigia, conditur olim
Ille hoc, qui cecinit pascua, rura, Duces,*

Can: Rec: MDLIII.

What

What dust lies here? this Heap
protects his Hearse,
Who whilome warbled Fields,
Farmes, Fights in Verse.

The *Crypta Neapolitana* a
perfect signe of the Roman
Magnificence is the rockie
Mountaine *Pausylippus*, cut
through, very high, spacious,
and well pav'd, so that for the
space of a mile, two Coaches
may goe on Front under earth;
in the midst is a *Madonna*, with
a Lampe perpetually burning,
the words at the Incounter
are *Alla Marina*, *Alla Mon-
tagne*.

At the going out of the Grot-
te, wee strooke towards the
right, and arriv'd at the *Grotta
del Cane*, which hath some in-
nate property, to kill every
living thing that enters, if not
H 3 speedily

speedily cast into the lake *Agnano*, 15. paces distant. We saw the experiment, (as for the most part it is shewn) in a Dog, which seem'd to loose his vitall force by degrees, but afterwards being throwne into the Lake, reviv'd.

Hard by are the Stowes of *San Gennaro* reasonable hot, with the odour of Sulphure.

Hence turning to the left, we came to *Capuchins*, and saw the stone whereon *San Gennaro* was beheaded, with *Nisita* a Mountaine in the Sea, and a little towards the right hand, is the *Sulphatara*, or hill of *Brimstone*, on which no grasse or hearb growes, but tis all white with ashes, it still casting out of severall holes a continuall smoke, with Flame, making the very earth to boile.

The

The ground is hollow underneath, and makes a hidious noise if strooke upon with a Hammer, or the like. These hills were cald by the ancient *Leucogei*; *Campus Phlegreus*, and *Forum Vulcani*, whose Kingdome (if in any part of the world) is here about, the Fire breaking out even in the high wayes. Here they compose Medicinall Pots of Brimstone.

Advancing forward, into the Suburbs of *Pozzuoles*, wee saw an *Amphitheatre*, and *Ciceros* house, cald *Academia*.

Afterwards being come to the Port, wee tooke a barque, to passe over the bay, which is round about, fild with remnants of those Romans magnificence, that liv'd there.

The first place wee saw after

wee were set to Land, was the *Mercato del Sabato* formerly a *Cirque*; and the buriall place of the ancient Romans.

From thence we past through the *Elisian Fields* (as they call them) a plaine spot of Earth, between the *Mount Misenus*, & the *Augustins* Convent of twenty Acres, and came to the ancient *Misenus*, so cal'd from the Trumpeter of *Æneas* there interd, the old Poets cald it *Aerius*, because of the many Sotteran Caves in it; of which many are yet to be seen.

The chiefe is the *Piscina Mirabili*; before which is the *Mare Mortuum*. This *Piscina* cald *mirabili*, because of the wonderfull art tis built with, was a reserver of fresh water for the Navie, which, (because this stands so neare the Sea) was brought

brought sixtie mile. It hath eleven Pillars in the length, foure in breadth, about foure and fourty in all. The materiall tis plaisterd with, in the inside is as durable as stone, yet no man knowes of what it is compos'd, some conceive it to be of the whites of Egges, and dust of Marble mingled together.

From hence leaving *Lucullus* his house at the left, wee went downe into the *Cento Camerelle*, or *Nerôs* hundred Chambers, where hee kept his Prisoners, a most hidious place.

Below that towards the Seaside is the Temple of *Hercules*, the place where *Agrippina*, *Neros* Mother was kild, the Pefcheries of *Hortensius*, *Tacitus* his sons house, with manv other ancient fragments which we

saw though with much paines.

From thence we tooke boat for *Baia*, where the Castle built by *Charles* the fifth of *France* is strong, going thither we could discerne the foundations of *Cimeria*, and old *Baia* underneath the Sea, with the *Via Consularis* overwhelm'd by the water, and on the shoare nothing but ruines.

Hereabouts *Caron* was feign'd to passe with his Boate. Here we set againe to Land, and saw the Temple of *Venus*, the Sepulcher of *Agrippina*, with diuerse figures, and her Pallace of the same worke. The Temple of *Diana* at the left, the Bathes of *Trullins*; The houses of *Marinus Pompey*, *Nero* standing aloft.

Hereabout the Sea water is naturally hot: Hard by we went
into

into *Ciceros* Bathes, as gallant and entire an Antiquity as any in the *Tract* of *Pozzuolo*; These waters were so soveraigne, not many years since over most diseases, that over every Bath was written for what cures it was good, of which Inscripti-
ons some letters yet stand, but the Physitians of *Palermo* (as they tell the story) finding those waters prejudiciall to their custome, went with instruments expressely, and demolisht those writings (so that for the present they are unusefull) the said Physitians, being all cast away in their returne.

From these Bathes we went up to the Stowes of *Tritola* extremely hot, even to Suffocation, yet contrary to the *Grotta del Cane*, that choking below and harmelesse above,
these

these coole and refreshing below, but almost stifeling above.

From thence we took horse, and past by the *Lacus Lucrinus*, the greater part whereof is now coverd with the *Monte Nuovo*, which mountaine (as their tradition is) was rais'd in one night, a mile high, from the ashes which came out of *Sulfatara*, and so coverd the *Lucrin Lake*. *Tommaso Fonnare* an old man of *Pozzuolo*, that dyed three yeares since remembred of that mountaines being made in one night a hundred yeares agoe.

After that wee rode to the *Lake Avernus*, whereabouts was the *Poets Acheron* or descent into hell, at one side of the Lake is the *Temple of Apollo*, at the other, the *Sybilla*
Cumanas

Cumanas Grotte. Tis very spacious, at the end is a Magnificent ascent where the Oracle stood, with the way that lead to *Cuma*, Her bath yet stands, and her Chambers painted in Mosaick worke, yet all under ground, as indeed most of the aforesaid Antiquities (excepting the Temples) are.

In returning to *Pozzuolo*, we saw the Mount *Gaurus*, from whence came the best *Falernum*, now cald *Barbaro*, it being altogether sterile. In *Puteoli* there are some Antiquities, as the Temple of *Neptune*, &c. In the Port are the vast ruines of *Caligulas* Bridge, which past three mile crosse the Sea, from *Pozzuoles* to *Baia*.

After dinner wee went back to *Naples*, In the way wee saw the *Lions*, *Austriches*, and other

ther wild beasts and fowles, that
a certaine Prince keeps.

Having repos'd a day after
this troublesome, yet satisfacto-
ry voyage of *Pozzuoles*, the
next morning wee set out of
the quite contrary part of *Na-*
ples, to see that Miracle of Na-
ture, the Brother of *Ætna*, *Ve-*
suuius, so famous for its last e-
ruption.

On the way, almost at the
foot of the mountaine, (a Mar-
ble frame, which are usuall on
the high wayes, in the King-
dome of *Naples*) relates this.

Posterì Posterì

Vestra res agitur

Dies faciem profert Diei nulli-
us perendino

Advortite.

Vicies ab satu solis nō fabula-
tur historia

Arfit

Arsit Vesevus
Immani semper clade hæsit an-
tantium.

Ne posthæc incertos occupet.
Uterum gerit Mons hic mo-
neo.

Bitumine, alumine, Ferro, Sul-
phure, Auro,
Argento, Nitro, Aquarum
Fontibus gravem.

Seryus, Ocyus ignescet, pela-
goque influente pariet.
Sedante parturit.

Concutitur, concutitq; solum,
Fumigat, coruscat, Flāmigerat,
Quatit aerem.

Horrendum immugit, boat,
tonat

Arsit finibus accolæ
Emica dum licet.

Jam jam inititur mixtum ig-
ne lacum evomit

Præcipiti ruit ille lapsu
Seramq; fugam prævertit

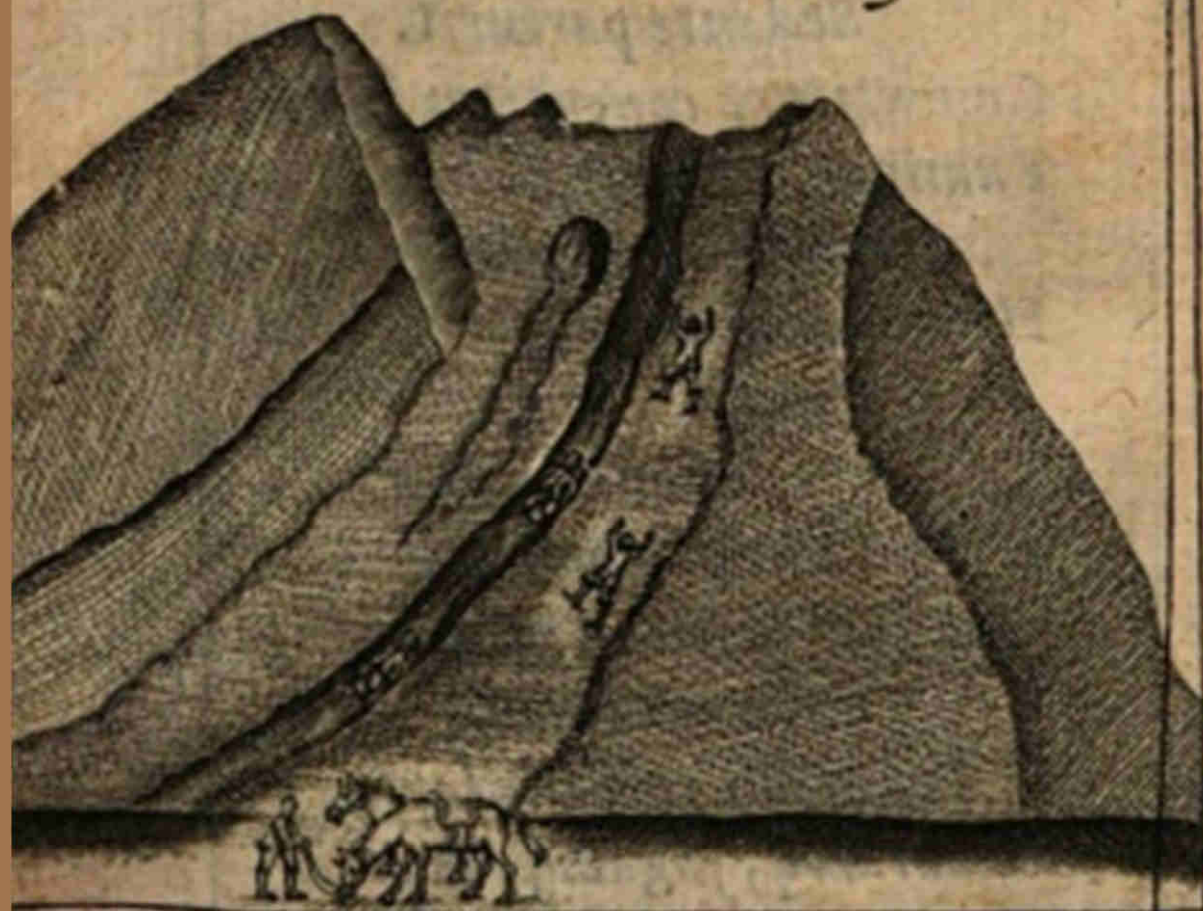
Si

Si præripit actum est periisti.
Ann: Sal. CIO IDCXXX. XVI. Jan
Philippo IV. Rego.

Tum tu si sapias audi clamantem La-
pidem
Sperne Larem, sperne Sarcinulas, mo-
ra nulla fuge.
Antonio Duares Vice Præfecto viarum.

The Vesuvius shewes it selfe thus
from Naples.

The Mountaine Vesuvius



Upon this Hill , or (changing a Letter) Hell is a goodly Countrey for the space of foure mile on all sides, which formerly produc't the excellent *Græco*, made barren , being coverd with a matter like Seacole Sinders. Going up higher tis hideous to behold the deep cracks in the Earth , through which the streames of Sulphure past, all about lyes scatterd the severall materialls it cast forth; Some like mettall , other like Pitch, Brimstone and the like, with such vast stones , as (I speake the least) foure porters would not able to carrie one of them

Being come so neere the top, as we could with our horses, we were forc't to alight, and to crawle up the steeper part, which is all coverd with a reddish

dish substance, that sounds like earthen vessels, some conceive it to be Pumie stone burnt, after this wee got up though weary to the top; where the *Vorago* is so terrifying a spectacle, that if I would paint Hell, this would be the best Patterne; It is a hole about three mile in compasse, and about halfe as much in depth, in the midst is a new hill that still vomits thick smoke, which the fire within hath rais'd within few yeares, it daily increaseth, and when tis growné to a fuller Bulke *caveat Neapolis.*

Pliny the Naturalist too Inquisitive after the cause of this intestine fire chang'd lives with Death on this Mountaine.

In returning, as we were tir'd in getting up, so wee went easily down, though almost up to the

the knees in ashes.

This Mountaine was the *Ultima Meta* of our voyage to *Naples* , wherefore having with much content seen these wonderfull things of Antiquity , Nature , and Curiosity ; after some few dayes we parted from *Naples* to *Rome* , treading the same path we had before trac't, At our going out of the Kingdome , they made us pay five times, for our Vallees, although they could finde no prohibited goods ; At our entrance they let us passe quietly , without paying a farthing.

All the way to *Rome* I saw nothing observable , but what I had before spoken of, onely I would not omit the great quantity of *Bufferos* (Beasts which furnish the Souldiery with their skins) that we met in the Countrey. The