

But besides this mischief from poisonous Exhalations, Stagnation of the Air, or Water impregnated with minerall spirits, they sometimes perish by other ways. For there being in these Mines an incredible mass of wood to support the Pitts and the Horizontal passages, (the *Putei* and *Cuniculi*) in all places but where 'tis Rocky, men are sometimes destroy'd by the wood set on fire. And in the Gold-mine at *Chremnitz* the wood was once set on fire by the carelessness of a boy, and 50 Miners smothered thereby; who were all taken out but one, that was afterwards found to be dissolv'd by the Vitrioll water, nothing escaping either of flesh or bones but only some of his cloaths. I am &c.

Vienna April, 20 1669.

*A Chronological Account  
Of the severall Incendium's or Fires of Mount Aetna.*

**T**He present Fire of *Aetna*, (whereof there was lately a Relation printed here in the *Savoy*) will make it appear not unseasonable to refl. & back upon former Ages, and to collect from History the severall Eruptions hapned there, together with the times of them, and some observations recorded by Authors concerning the same.

To pass by what is related by *Berosus*, *Orpheus* and other less credible Authors, about the Eruptions of this Mountain, both at the time of the ingress of the *Ionian* Colonies into *Sicily*, and that of the *Argonautes* (which latter was in the 12th Age before the Christian account;) we shall first take notice of that, which happen'd at the time of the Expedition of *Aeneas*, who being terrified by the fire of this then burning Mountain, left that Island; whereof *Virgil* l. 3. *Aeneid.* gives this notable description;

*Ignarique via, Cyclopum allabimur oris,  
Portus ab accessu ventorum immotus et ingens,  
Ipse sed horrificis juxta tonat Aetna ruinis,  
Interdumque etiam prorumpit ad aethera nubes  
Turbine fumantem picco et candente favilla.  
Attollitque globos flammarum, et sidera laxabit.*

*Interdum*

*Interdum scopulos, avulsaque viscera Montis  
Erigit eructans, liquefactaque saxa sub auras  
Cum gemitu glomerat, fundoque exaestuato imo.*

After this we find in *Thucydides*, that in the 76. *Olympiad*, which is about 476. before Christ, there was another Fire, and about 50. years after that, another.

Then, in the time of the *Roman Consuls* there haped four Eruptions of *Aetna*, recorded by *Diodorus Siculus* and *Polybius*.

The next was in the time of *Julius Caesar*, related by the said *Diodorus* to have been so fierce, that the Sea about *Lipara* (an island neere *Sicily*) by its fervent heat burnt the Ships, and kill'd all Fishes thereabout.

Another we read of in the Reign of *Caligula*, about 40. years after Christ, which was so dreadful, that it made that Emperor, then being in *Sicily*, to fly for it.

About the Martyrdom of the Romish *S. Agatha* it burned againe very fiercely; though some say, that by vertue of her intercession it was stay'd from reaching *Catania*.

Againe it burnt A. C. 812. in the Reign of *Charles M.*

Then from the year 1160 to 1669. whole *Sicily* was shakn with many terrible Earth-quakes, and the Eruptions of the same Mountain destroyed a vast tract of inhabited land round about it, and reacht as far as *Catania*; the Cathedral of which it destroy'd, and the religious men living in it.

Againe, in the year 1284. there happened another terrible fire about the time of the death of *Charles* king of *Sicily* and *Arragon*.

A. 1329 untill 1333. there was another. A. 1408. another.

A. 1414. another, which lasted till 1447.

A. 1536. another, which lasted a year.

A. 1633. another, continuing several years.

A. 1650. it burnt on the North-East-side, and vomited so much fire, that by the fiery Torrents, caused thereby, great devastation was made, as *Kircher* relates in his *Mundus subterraneus*; whose assistance we have also made use of in the foregoing Chronology together with that of *Philotheus*.

The same Author, having been in *Sicily* himself, observeth, that the people of *Catania*, digging for Punice-stones, do find at the depth of 100 palmes (which is about 68. feet) Streets pa-

ved with Marble, and many footsteps of Antiquity; an argument, that Towns have stood there in former ages, which have been overwhelmed by the Matter cast out of this Mountain. They have also found several Bridges of Pumice-stones, doubtless made by the flux of the fiery Torrents, the Earth being very much raised since.

Now whether these Eruptions are caused by actual subteraneous Fires, lighting upon combustible matter; or by Fire struck out of falling and breaking stones, whose sparks meet with Nitro-sulphureous or other inflammable substances heap'd together in the bowels of the Earth, and by the expansive violence of the Fire forc'd to take more room, and so bursting out with the impetuosity we see; may not be unworthy of a Philosopher's speculation.

*An Account*

*Concerning a Woman having a Double Matrix; as the Publisher hath Englished it out of French, lately printed at Paris, where the Body was opened.*

This Figure (which in the *Cut* here annex'd is the II.) represents the two

\* *It may be, that that, which is by M. Vassal, Publisher of this Relation, esteem'd a second Womb, is nothing else, but the true Matrix lengthen'd, or that, which by Anatomists is call'd Tuba Fal-* \* *Matrixes, found januar. 6 1669. by Benoit Vassal Chirurgon, opening the Body of a woman of 32. years of age, of a sanguin Constitution, and a masculin port. These two Matrixes were so well disposed by an extraordinary contrivance of Nature, that the True one had conceived eleven severall times, viz. 7. males and 4. femals, all born at the full time, and all perfectly wellform'd; but they were at last follow'd by a brother yet a fetus, that was conceiv'd in an adjunct Uterus, in a place so little capable of distension, that seeking enlargement, after it had caused to the Mother for two months and an half grievous symptoms, did at last, being of the age of about 3. or 4. months, break prison, and found its grave in that of its mother, by a very great effusion of blood in the whole capacity of her abdomen; which cast the mother into such violent convulsive motions for 3. days together, that she dyed of them. VVhereupon the said Vassal, after having embalmed the parts, he had made at his house for a whole month together the particular dissection thereof, before all the most Curious and knowing Physitians, Chirurgeons, Apothecaries, Mid-wives, and other Searchers of Nature, that are in Paris, thought good to preserve the History thereof by committing it and the Figure of the parts spoken of, to the Press, together with a Table, for better explanation; which we think fit here to annex in Latin:*