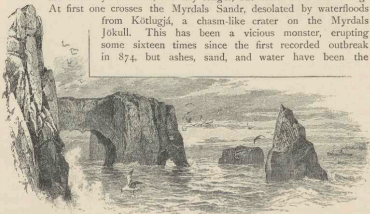


but these amounts are thought excessive. The most moderate calculation, however, enumerates 1300 human beings, 19,488 horses, 6801 cattle, and 129,937 sheep.

The total length of the first stream was nearly fifty miles, with a width that varied from two or three to ten or twelve. The second was nearly twenty miles in length, but not so wide. Estimates of the quantity of lava vary from fifty thousand million to six hundred billion cubic yards—from the total bulk of Hekla to a mass no smaller than Mont Blanc! As I crossed the stream, I found it piled in jagged, shapeless masses, as sharp and clinker-like as when it first solidified. Near the river, where the conflict was the wildest, the heaps are most distorted, and frequently the lava crust has been shattered by explosions, which have piled the plates on end, like gravestones for the buried victims. Mr. Stevensen visited the Blængr a year after the eruption, but found the lava too hot to traverse. Dr. Anderson, in 1890, reached the craters, and found that they extended for miles along a fissure, clearly visible in many places. As an illustration of volcanic habit, it may be noted that violent earthquakes occurred in Sicily and in Calabria in the months preceding these events.

From Búland, or from Ásar, two tracks lead westward, one behind the mountains, bleak and wild, between the Merkr and the Torfa Glaciers, the other by the coast, one day longer, but much more interesting.

At first one crosses the Myrdals Sandr, desolated by waterfloods from Kötlugjá, a chasm-like crater on the Myrdals Jökull. This has been a vicious monster, erupting some sixteen times since the first recorded outbreak in 874, but ashes, sand, and water have been the



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products rather than lava. So enormous have been the floods, that they have brought down icebergs from the glacier huge enough to lie aground