

THE
FLAMING
ISLANDS:

OR,

A full Description and Account of the
strange and terrible Fire, lately broke
out of the Ground, in the Island *Fyal*,
in Threescore and Ten several places.

As also in some other Neighbouring
Islands; to the Destruction of most
of the Inhabitants, and unexpressible
Terror and Affrightment of those that
by flight escaped its dismal Effects.

*Æsse quoque in Fatis reminiscimur affore
tempus,*

*Quo Mæræ, quo Tellus, summusque Exar-
deat Æther.*

London, Printed for *Phillip Brocksby*, next door to the Ball,
in *West Smithfield*, near the Hospital Gate. 1672.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Rare Books from 1600-1800

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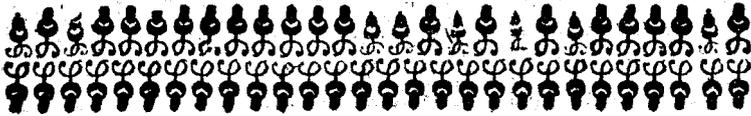
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bouring Islands.

AMongst all those Stupendious effects wherewith
Mysterious Nature Exercises and keeps in awe
her trembling Children, few there are that
have more, both astonished Vulgar Heads, and
basted the Studies of more knowing and Physosphical

Enquirers, than those Occult and Subterranean Fires, which have been observed always to Rage in some particular parts of our Earthly Globe, and at certain periods of time to break forth, to the Derastation of the Adjacent Countries, Mount *Aetna*, and *Vesuvius*, are Famous on this account in the Monuments of Antiquity; Whose wondrous qualities, whilst *Pliny* (that Great Secretary of Nature) rashly Attempted by too near approaches to discover, he is reported to be slain by one of those vast burning Stones which it almost continually vomits up into the Air, falling thus, a Sacrifice to his over-busie Curiosity.

The best account Phylosophy has yet afforded us, of these strange Fires, is, That the Mountains, or places wherein they happen, are within Repleated with Brimstone, and the Ground or Soil there, consists of vast quantities of Bituminous, or the like Combustible matter, which taking Fire, either from its own Innate heat, or the Penetrating Rays of the Sun, the Winds which through imperceptible Crannies whistle up and down in those underground Vaults (producing thereby sometimes those Erruptions we call Earthquakes) serve as Bellows to Augment its Rage: And having so much ready disposed Fuel to Prey upon, it ceases not burning, but in process of time, eating up towards the Surface, the Flames which had so long lurk'd in these Carernes below, break out, to the infinite amazement of Mortals, who had not the least apprehension of such an hidden, but most terrible and devouring Enemy. A dreadful and deplorable example of which kind very lately hapned, is, The mournful Subject of the present Narrative; which be pleased to accept according to the most

most certain Intelligence from the place that was the unhappy Scene of this Tragedy of Horror, as follows.

On the Coast of the East-Indies (whose Spices and precious Stones may justly Vye Dignity with the Western Mines) not far from that Eminent and well-known Port of *Bon*, there lies a Cluster of Islands, some of which being first discovered by the *Portagues*, do still pay obedience to that Crown. Amongst these, that called *Fyal*, for the pleasantness of the Air, commodiousness of its situation, richness of the Commodities it produced, and number of Inhabitants, did far excel the rest, whence we may easily Collect that the People who enjoyed all these signal advantages lived in great Ease, Plenty, Magnificence, and Security: But alas! how soon can the Alldisposing Arm of Providence blast our Joys, and by unexpected means turn our most flourishing condition into a state of misery and desolation.

On a sudden in the beginning of this last Spring, as they were in the height of their Jollity, a Deluge of Fire, that by the means before hinted at, had long lain hid and confined, in the Bowels of the Earth, broke out with unimaginable Horror, and Impetuous Rage, in no less then seventy distinct places of their Island, the Earth opening with horrible Roarings, and several vast Hyatusses, or Hideous Gapings; one of which hapning in the chief Town (being a place of excellent structure, and Populous) all the Buildings, and most part of the Inhabitants were instantly swallowed in that dreadful Abyffe of Flames.

In other places whole Flocks and Herds were Absorpt, and descended as Burnt-Offerings in *Hecatombs, Diss Manibus.*

The Flames which had thus broke Prison from Earth, mounted with such fury and violence towards Heaven, as if they would have joyned with the Elemental Fire, which the Aristotelians talk of, and perfected the Universal Conflagration.

Vast stones red hot were (as it were) shot through the Air, which falling some miles distant, kil'd great numbers, and destroyed such of the Houses as the Earthquakes at the time of the first Erruptions had left standing.

In Fine, There was nothing but Horror, Astonishment, Destruction, and Confusion: The Air was all filled with smoak, burning Cinders, and Ashes which fell like a Fiery Rain, and utterly wasted the whole Country.

All the Elements seemed to War against, and Conspire for the punishment of the wretched Inhabitants, whose Terrors and Destractions were such as are not possible to be fully, either described, or imagined.

An Universal Consternation had seized them, and without any regard to their Friends or Relations; Women leaving their little Babes, and Men abandoning their aged helpless parents, every one endeavoured to shift for himself, and get away by what means they could, from that dismal place which threatned them every moment, with nothing but the most dreadful kind of Death and Destruction.

The Neighbouring Islands, as *St. Michaels*, *St. Georges*, *St. Maries*, and the *Tarceras*, were the *Zoars*, to which, winged with fear, they Flew for refuge; though the last can promise them but little security, since the Fire is since broke out there too, though as yet, not with that fury and violence as in *Fyjal*.

Some of our Pious Ancestors (rich in Faith, though barren in Phylosophy) conceited those *Vulcano's*, or burning Mountains of *Brimstone*: As, *Aetna*, *Vesurius* and the like, to be the Local place of Hell, and Receptacles of Souls Doom'd to everlasting torments. The truth is, they seem'd to have a very neer resemblance to that Litteral description of Hell delivered to us, in the Sacred Oracles. And though some wild Atheistical Gallants (that scarce dread any other Hell, but an empty pocket, or the frowns of a Mistris) may suggest, that Fire can have no effect of torment on a Soul, and that weeping and gnashing of teeth are not easily supposed punishments consistant, and therefore that all those things are Allegorically to be understood, yet let them be assured the Fire of Hell is either Elemental Fire, or something worse; for which we want a Name that can better express its inconceivable, as well as endless tortures.

Wherefore

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Wherefore let all Pious Readers, by this terrible example of God's Power, and strange burning in the Bowels of the Earth, be admonished to mind that Universal Conflagration, when the whole Globe of Earth shall confest it's Ashes, and be destroyed by Fire; and to prepare for that amazing Judgement which shall then immediately succeed, (the thoughts whereof alone, as a Noble Author hath it, *are able to keep us honest in the dark,* and) which shall Impartially render to every Man according to his Works.

F I N I S.