

The detachment for the lake pursued its route, and before dark reached the solitary residence of a native family, called Waiipi, where they were hospitably received, and lodged in a building used as a family chapel. This dwelling is situated in a romantic gorge at the point of a mountain, and its existence appears to have been unknown to the white residents of the coast.

The next day this detachment proceeded up the bed of the torrent, which was even more swollen than before. They were now surrounded with the wild banana or fahie (*Musa rubra*), having its upright spikes loaded with its beautiful fruit. Besides these, there were many tree-ferns from forty to fifty feet high. Most of the trees were covered with parasitic plants, which grow with great luxuriance. Leaving the bed of the torrent, they soon reached the dividing ridge, which from observations with the sympiesometer, is twenty-seven hundred feet above the sea. The summit of this ridge was only a few paces in width, and was covered with groves of fahies, clinging, and as it were bound by numerous vines, to the rock. In these respects, the surrounding peaks closely resemble it.

The view from the point of the ridge which they had reached, is magnificent. The lake lay almost beneath them, at a depth of about one thousand feet, surrounded on all sides by perpendicular cliffs, and appearing as if inaccessible, while numerous streams rushed in silvery foam down the rocks; and the lake itself seemed diminished in size by the vastness of the precipices which enclose it.

In spite of the steepness of the cliffs, the descent to the lake was accomplished without accident, by scrambling down the bed of a small stream, although they were compelled to stop from time to time, resting upon their staves, or clinging to the shrubs and roots, while the stones they had set in motion rushed onwards, accumulating others in their course, until the united mass equalled an avalanche.

When they reached the edge of the lake, their guides constructed a hut, in which they passed the night. The next day Lieutenant Emmons made a survey of the lake, and sounded its depth from a raft. It was found to be half a mile in length, a third of a mile in breadth, and in shape nearly oval. The depth in the middle was ninety-six feet, whence it gradually decreases to the edge. It had rained the whole of the preceding night, and the lake was observed to rise about five feet in twenty hours. As far as could be discovered, it has no outlet; but the natives assert that if a bread-fruit be thrown into the water, it will make its appearance at a spring, which gushes from the hill-side, about two miles north of Ooaigarra, and near the sea. The height of the surface of the lake, measured by the sym-