

nim. The other gentlemen, Messrs. Peale, Pickering, Couthouy, and Brackenridge, proceeded forwards; but they soon found that the guides had no intention to lead them to the top of the mountain, during the continuance of the heavy rains, but pursued a course so devious and circuitous as to make it probable that they would lose the chance of seeing either the mountain or the lake. They felt assured that the ascent, under more favourable circumstances, would have been practicable, but were satisfied that it would require more time than they could spare. Notwithstanding their disappointment, they were compelled at last to admit that the guides had acted wisely; for during the continuance of such rains as afterwards fell, the ascent of the mountain would not only have been difficult, but extremely dangerous.

Compelled to abandon the attempt, they followed and overtook Mr. Dana, and then turned up the valley. About noon, after having crossed the stream so often that a fourth of the way might be said to be by water, they reached the residence of the native family Waiipi.

Dr. Pickering is of opinion that this dwelling would be an excellent station for a botanist. It has a rich field around it, and is, besides, within a short distance of the most elevated parts of the island.

They did not stop at this place, but proceeding forwards reached a spot called by the natives Opuu, where, in a shelter of the same kind as that which has been described as their previous bivouac, they spent the night. The rain fell in torrents, and about midnight a violent thundergust passed through the valley.

The next morning they went on towards the lake, and on reaching the crest of the intervening ridge, the weather moderated, and gave them an opportunity of enjoying the extensive prospect it commands. Besides the lake at their feet, as seen by the other detachment, they had a view of the cleft peak of Orohena, at the distance of about seven miles, rising from five thousand to six thousand feet above the spot where they stood. Descending the steep sides of the basin of the lake, they joined the other detachment about noon.

It has been stated that the lake had been observed to rise five feet. It was now evident that it had reached as high a level as its waters ever attain. Many plants (such as the Polygonums) which could not live long under such circumstances, were found entirely submerged, and the water had reached the woody plants on the shores, and threatened their speedy destruction.

The proposed line of descent lay on the opposite side of the lake, and the shores are so precipitous as to prevent walking around it. It became necessary, therefore, to cross it upon a raft, which was a slow process. The natives swam over. After crossing the lake, the