

was rarely visible, but is covered with a deep and fertile soil, arising from its decomposition, and mixed with vegetable mould. The whole declivity, from the very summit of the peak to the shore of the sea, is, like other parts of the island, clothed with a dense forest, which shuts out all view of the ocean, except from the top of the mountain. The ridge whence the cone rises was found to be one thousand one hundred and fifty feet above the level of the sea, and the angle of ascent thence upwards, was from 40° to 50° . The top of the peak, which forms the edge of the crater, is not more than fifteen feet wide in any place, and sometimes not more than half as much. It is of uniform height, and has a circular form; the cavity within it was estimated as having a circumference of about two and a quarter miles, and occupies the whole summit. The depth of the crater was found to be three hundred and sixty feet, and the whole of its interior is filled with lofty trees. The slope of the inner declivity was 60° . At the foot of this is an uneven plane, covered with earth and loose cinders or scoria. Upon this grow forest trees, many of which were more than one hundred feet in height, beneath which is a dense growth of shrubbery.

It was remarked, that although it had rained constantly for several days before this crater was visited, no water was found within it. This is accounted for by the fact that many of the brooks and streams on the island are subterranean throughout their whole course, while others are partly so. The former gush up near the sea-shore in large springs or fountains, forming natural, or feeding artificial pools, in which the natives bathe. According to our observations, such pools are so numerous on the western shore of the island, as to occur on the average, at intervals of a mile.

The rocks of this island are of the volcanic character that might be expected from the existence of so many craters. They are principally composed of a variety of basaltic lava, in which are found augite, felspar, albite, and chrysolite. Extensive currents of lava are seen, and are particularly abundant on the southern side of the island.

It appears as if these had flowed down towards the sea-shore in various directions, and that after their outer surface had cooled, the portion that remained liquid within had run out, and left a sort of tunnel. Such tunnels are numerous, and form the subterranean courses of the streams. Some of these natural tunnels are remarkable: among them, one visited near Sanga will serve as the type of all. It was found to be a cavern nine hundred and fifty-eight feet in length, extending in a southeast direction, and to have an average width of about fifteen feet; its roof was about eight feet in height. At the termination of this cave, there was a pool of water five feet in depth,