

the wind, which had sprung up, blowing the water to the lee side. Large quantities of salt were seen, piled in heaps on the hills to allow it to drain: this is the property of the king, and yields him a considerable annual income. It is considered as the best for salting provisions, and therefore commands a higher price than other salt manufactured on the island; it is also used as table-salt at Honolulu. In the lake it is found crystallized, and crystals are readily formed on branches of trees that have been put into the water.

The deposit in the lake is mud of a blue-black colour, and exceedingly *tenacious*, almost as much so as an unctuous clay.

Some small particles of salt were found on the hill-side, adjacent to the lake, which might lead to the inference that the soil was impregnated with salt; but the habit of the natives has been, from time immemorial, to carry the salt to the tops of the hills to drain, which will readily account for its appearance there. The opinion, however, was entertained by some that it proceeded from the soil. The lake is about one-third of a mile in diameter, and has the appearance of having been the basin of a crater. If this should be the case, it must necessarily be admitted that there are two others in juxtaposition with it to the west, with partition walls between; the latter are not as distinct in their outline as the salt lake. All of them, however, appeared to me very different from the coast craters of the island. Within a short distance inland from the salt lake, is a deep ravine or valley, that shows the formation to be the compact limestone before spoken of, with the stratification of pebbles, &c. All these appearances united, give me the idea of the basin having been caused by an action different from that by which craters are formed.

The lake, after the discovery relative to its being but knee-deep, was the subject of much discussion at Honolulu. It was visited on several occasions afterwards, to ascertain if it had an ebb and flow, and simultaneous observations were made at the shore and in the lake; but all the trials confirmed the first observations.

On the east end of the island are numerous caves, which Messrs. Drayton and Dana visited: they are situated in a bluff of three hundred feet elevation, and the mouths of them are at about two-thirds the height. Most of these caves are accessible by ascending along the sides of the bluff obliquely. The natives formerly used them for the burial of their dead, and at times they are still so appropriated. One was walled up, and a strong pole was lying against the rock, which the natives said had been used to bring the body to the place. In the centre of the wall which closed the mouth of the tomb, was a piece of white tapa, the deposit of which in tombs is