

losing the track. Fires were again resorted to, which at short distances could be seen in the intervals of mist.

Deeming it advisable to make an early halt, we stopped shortly after three o'clock, to allow all the baggage to come up. Notwithstanding the size of our party, there was no perceptible track left or any thing by which to be guided, but the smoke of the fires, or occasionally a broken shrub, as a finger-post. All the ground was hard metallic-looking lava, and around nothing but a dreary waste. The voice too became fainter, as the atmosphere grew more rarefied. Our encampment was called the Sunday Station, on account of our having remained quietly here on that day. The altitude given by the barometer was six thousand and seventy-one feet, at which we found ourselves above the region of clouds, and could look down upon them.

At night, on pulling off my clothes, I noticed the quantity of electrical fluid elicited, which continued for some time to affect the objects about me, particularly a large guanaco-robe I had to sleep in.

This afternoon, we found that it would be impossible to drive the bullock any further; for the animal began to suffer from fatigue and the want of water, our supply of which was almost exhausted; he was accordingly killed. The natives were now hawking water about the camp at half a dollar the quart. I am not aware that they sold any at that extravagant price; but I saw some of them in possession of handkerchiefs and old shirts, which I understood had been given for it.

Ragsdale, one of our guides, who had been despatched to Papapala from the crater to purchase provisions, now joined us, with two more guides. He brought information that he had obtained forty goats, and that we should receive full supplies. This was encouraging news, for I felt somewhat doubtful from the first in relying on the natives, and their behaviour at Kilauea was not calculated to raise my opinion of them. I found also, as we ascended the mountain, that even light loads had become heavy, and those of any weight, insupportable; that our time was rapidly passing, and we had a long way yet before we reached the summit; and that the native food was nearly exhausted, while the supply for our own men was rapidly consuming.

The two guides that Ragsdale brought with him, were perfectly familiar with the mountain. One of them was a celebrated bird-catcher, called Keaweehu, who had been the guide of Lowenstern, and knew where water was to be obtained; but it was ten miles distant. He said, that if he was furnished with calabashes and natives to carry them, he would be able to bring us a supply by the afternoon, if he left before the day dawned; and that it would be two days before we could