

felt some uneasiness about one of my men, named Longley, who had not come up with us. The men all said, that he had returned to the Recruiting Station; having been unwell and unable to proceed.

At about four o'clock in the morning, the snow had accumulated in such quantities on our canvass roof, that it broke in upon us, bringing down also some of the stones. This was a disagreeable accident; and after escaping from beneath the ruin, it became necessary to take the covering off and clear the snow out of the pen, which was nearly full. This was the work of nearly an hour of unpleasant labour; but it was much more easily accomplished, than getting ourselves warm again. I need scarcely say, I passed a most uncomfortable night.

When daylight came, the storm had somewhat abated in violence, and I despatched the men for the tents and wood, a part of which had been dropped by one of the natives within half a mile of our position. A man soon returned with the wood, and another brought forward a calabash, in which we fortunately found some provisions, and we soon had what we little expected, something to eat, and what the men called a comfortable breakfast.

It was very pleasant to find the sick ones reviving, and good-humour and cheerfulness so predominant among them that they seemed ready for further exertions. We had now all that was necessary to push on to the summit. I left a flag on a rocky peak near by; and this was afterwards called the Flag Station.

About eleven o'clock we set out, and were obliged to cross a mass of clinkers, which our guide had hitherto endeavoured to avoid. When, after two hours' laborious walking, we reached the top or terminal crater, it still continued snowing in squalls, with a keen southwest wind driving in our faces; the ground being covered a foot deep with snow, rendered it more dangerous and irksome to pass over such loose and detached masses.

From intelligence that had been brought me by the gentlemen who had gone before and taken a hasty look into the crater, it was thought that the descent into it would prove easy, and that I might encamp on its floor; but I found after travelling a long distance over the rugged surface, that it was impossible to succeed in making a descent. I was, therefore, compelled to return, and choose the smoothest place for our encampment I could find. It was after four o'clock, and but little time was left for the men to return. As soon as they had pitched the tent, within about sixty feet of the ledge of the crater, using large blocks of lava to confine its cords, I sent them off under charge of the guide to the Flag Station, and remained with my servants only.

By six o'clock I thought that we had made ourselves comfortable