

A search was set on foot in the morning, but had continued without success.

The storm which with us had been snow, was rain at the Recruiting Station, and they were in hopes of getting from it a supply of water; but in the morning the lava-rock appeared as dry as before.

The news Dr. Judd brought was far from encouraging. Besides the disappearance of Longley, I learned that nearly all the natives had deserted the boxes; that many of them had not even reached the Recruiting Station, and that Ragsdale and his forty goats had not come; nor were there any tidings of the party from the ship. The natives hearing of our distresses, and probably exaggerating them, had refused to furnish any thing unless at exorbitant prices. The officers had very properly rejected the whole that was offered; for, although our allowance was small, we trusted that the provisions from the ship would arrive in a day or two at farthest.

I despatched a messenger to desire that the men coming from the ship should be employed first in hunting up Longley, although I entertained little hope of his being found alive, exposed as he must have been to two such severe nights and days, without food or covering from the storm.

After getting a fire lighted, and something to eat, Drs. Judd, Pickering, and myself, set out to reconnoitre the crater for a more suitable place in which to establish the tents; but, after much search, we found none that offered so many facilities as that I had accidentally chosen the first night. Dr. Pickering parted from us, and was the first to make a descent into the crater.

Nothing can exceed the devastation of the mountain: the whole area of it is one mass of lava, that has at one time been thrown out in a fluid state from its terminal crater. There is no sand or other rock; nothing but lava, on whichever side the eye is turned. To appearance it is of different ages, some of very ancient date, though as yet not decomposed, and the alternations of heat and cold, with rain and snow, seem to have united in vain for its destruction. In some places, it is quite smooth, or similar to what has already been described as the pahoioi, or "satin stream;" again, it appears in the form of clinkers, which are seldom found in heaps, but lie extended in beds for miles in length, sometimes a mile wide, and occasionally raised from ten to twenty feet above the surface of the surrounding lava.

The place where these clinkers appear to me to have been formed is in the crater itself; there they have been broken up by contending forces, and afterwards ejected with the more fluid lava, and borne