

At 10 P. M., I was unable to proceed with the pendulum observations; for such was the fury of the storm, that the journeyman-clock, with a loud beat, although within three feet of my ear, could not be heard. I was indeed apprehensive that the whole tent, house, and apparatus would be blown over and destroyed. The barometer indicated but little change. This storm continued until sunrise of the 9th, when it moderated. I have seldom experienced so strong a wind; it blew over and broke one of the barometers, although its legs had been guarded carefully by large stones; and the wind was so violent at times, that it was with difficulty we could keep our footing. We suffered the loss of three thermometers, by the frame being blown down on which they were fastened.

Towards morning, the wind having sufficiently lulled, the pendulum observations were continued.

Being desirous of obtaining the depth of the crater, we prepared a long line with a plummet; and Mr. Eld was also despatched below, to get altitude angles with a base on both sides for the elevation of the banks. He set out at ten o'clock, with the sergeant and two men, and passed down under the eastern bank,—the same route Dr. Judd had taken. He described it as so steep, as to threaten them, by a false step or the loosening of a stone, with being precipitated below. They reached the bottom in less than an hour: the plummet had been lowered, which Mr. Eld went in search of, but it had only reached about a third of the distance down, and on signal being made, it was lowered still further; but the cord soon chafed through, and the plummet, which was the top of the ship's maul, disappeared.

Mr. Eld obtained his base and the angles of elevation of the east bank, and then went over to the west side. The passage across the bottom of the crater he found much as Dr. Judd had described it; the ridges, from ten to fifty feet in height, alternating with deep chasms and smooth pahoihoi. They were two hours crossing over, and in imminent danger every moment of being killed by the falling of fragments of rocks, or of being precipitated down the fissures, that were crossed every few yards by jumping on their fragile edges, and threatening himself and men on breaking through, with one of the most horrible deaths. Some of the steam-cracks they were able to approach, but others were entirely too dangerous to admit of such proximity.

After finishing the observations, Mr. Eld directed his steps towards the bank or wall, where he had been told it was easier to pass along; but he found the path quite as rugged; and by the time they reached the place of ascent, they were all nearly unable to proceed from fatigue.