

ature, although only a few moments passed before I was out of danger. The lava at the mouth of some of the chasms, appeared as though it had been thrown up and plastered on the edges in clots, which seemed of the consistency of tar or melted sealing-wax, of various colours, the most predominant a dark brown. One of these fissures we designated as the Great Steam-crack: it led from the top of the mountain a long distance down its sides, towards the south, and from it vapour was constantly issuing. On throwing a piece of lava down it, a sound was produced as if many pieces had been flung into an ordinary chasm, and the reverberation continued so long, as to lead to the belief that the mountain was rent to its very base.

Although we had scarcely accomplished one-third of the circuit, our sandals began to give way, and we were obliged to stop to mend them, in order to prevent ourselves from becoming barefoot before making the circuit and reaching the encampment. While Dr. Judd undertook the repairs, I made a sketch of the crater, looking into it from the south, with Mauna Kea in the distance, while all around us the lava was piled in huge blocks, confusedly thrown together by some mighty force.

This crater differs in several particulars from that of Kilauea. It has no black ledge, and has a great quantity of fallen debris around its walls. There is no boiling lake, although the evidences of fire, as has already been stated, are not wanting, and its outer walls are more broken down.

The glare from the snow in the strong sunlight had now become exceedingly uncomfortable to the eyes, which was felt by several who were in company with us.

About 1 p. m., we were at a station on the southwest side, from which I obtained the distance, by sound, from the observatory.

From this station we had a distant view of the hills on the coast.

After getting my observations with the theodolite, we proceeded on our way round, frequently passing numbers of large boulders of a grayish basalt, that were lying on the lava stream, and had apparently been ejected from the crater.

About two o'clock we reached the western side of the dome of Mauna Loa, which is here much more precipitous than it is on the east. On the western side there was no more than a slight sprinkling of snow, that scarcely covered the black lava. The weather was still and calm, and a deathlike stillness prevailed, which I dreaded to break, even by making a remark to my companions upon the splendour of the scene before us. The sight was surpassingly grand. In the distance, the island of Maui emerged from and broke the line of the deep-blue