

before dark, for otherwise we should be forced to pass the night among the blocks of lava. Our sandals of hide were worn through, and our shoes somewhat injured, so that it became a source of anxiety to us whether they would last long enough for us to reach our destination.

With rapid steps we passed along the north bank of the crater, descending on our hands and knees over some large blocks, where the wall had been thrown down as it were by earthquakes, filling chasms near it several hundred feet in depth. The way was difficult and dangerous, requiring the utmost caution in proceeding along the narrow edge that separated the north from the central crater; a false step, or the detaching of a small rock or stone, would have sent hundreds of the huge blocks headlong below. We passed over without accident; and blocks of stone that before I had conceived to be large, diminished to small stones, in comparison with those we were passing over by jumping from one to the other. Many of us sank down from exhaustion when we reached the opposite bank. How I accomplished the remaining two miles I am unable to say, unless it were by virtue of the stimulant that the prospect of being benighted gave me. When we arrived, the sun had set, and we were all completely exhausted.

On our return we found the village filled with half-naked natives, who had come up, lured by the fine weather, and in hopes of getting their loads to return immediately, for the following day had been originally fixed upon for breaking up our camp. It was impossible to allow them to return: the night had closed in, and it became necessary to accommodate some forty natives with lodging and comforts. Although I was worn down, this was too strong a case to go unattended to; and the only place where I could stow them was the pendulum-house. I therefore took down and packed away the clock and apparatus, and gave them the house to lodge in. With the dry grass on its floor and roof, and plenty to eat, they made themselves quite comfortable.

During the time I was thus engaged, I began to feel as if cobwebs had passed over my face and eyes, and found the same feeling prevailed with two or three of the men who had accompanied me during the day. To this feeling succeeded excessive irritation and inflammation of the eyes and eyelids, brought on by exposure to the strong glare from the snow. Dr. Judd was kind enough to make various applications, but none of these produced any effect, and I felt forcibly the horror of probable blindness; indeed I was so for the time, and notwithstanding all my fatigues, I passed a sleepless night in great pain. The night was stormy: the thermometer fell to 17°. I, how-