

CHAPTER V.

KILAUEA.

1841.

WHEN day broke, on the 13th January, all was bustle on the summit of Mauna Loa. Every one was engaged in taking down and packing up the instruments and equipage, loaded with which the native labourers scampered off. Some of them, indeed, unable to bear the cold any longer, and hoping to obtain loads afterwards, withdrew without burdens.

At nine o'clock, Dr. Judd, myself, and six of the crew of the Vincennes, bade adieu to the walled village we had built. The men showed their delight at quitting this barren and desolate spot by three hearty cheers. It was no little gratification to me to be able to take my departure, after having successfully accomplished all the duties assigned to me here, without any serious mishap, except in the case of Longley, although all the party had been more or less sufferers from the mountain-sickness.

Dr. Judd remarked, in relation to the manner in which the natives were attacked by this disease, that the general symptoms were colic, vomiting, and diarrhœa; that one or two were affected with spitting of blood, and a few had fever and ague. A yellowness of skin, with headache and giddiness, were experienced by nearly all the party, while several were seized with asthma and rheumatism, and a few had scorbutic symptoms.

Dr. Judd always found that great hunger was felt, although the ability to eat at meals was wanting.

A variableness of the pulse during the day, which the least excitement would cause to rise, was experienced by all, the variation amounting to from thirty to forty beats.