

and examine the ground. The cause of this accident I found to be, that the sand and pumice had accumulated in the Great Steam-crack, that leads off in the direction of Papapala (nearly south), and had filled it almost to a level with the rest of the surface. It may easily be conceived how this could be done by these materials, possessing as they do somewhat of an adhesive quality, resulting partly from their glassy points and fibres. In treading on these places, the person immediately falls down, which prevents him from sinking farther. Such was the terror that came over him, that he crawled with great rapidity to a place where he could find a point of safety or firmer ground, to rise upon. The natives, in passing over these sands, were always desirous of feeling their way with a stick.

What is the most remarkable circumstance about this volcano is, that a short distance from it there is no appearance of such a phenomenon being near, and one cannot help expressing much astonishment on approaching the edge, to see it so close at hand. From every part of the bank, it is a wonderful sight; but the view from the northern side to me was the finest, as the whole of this mighty laboratory of nature is there embraced in one view. The oldest native traditions record it to have been in constant operation.

On the southeast side there are some loose blocks of lava, that have somewhat the appearance of having been ejected, but they are few in number. Stones were more numerous on this side, although they would not perhaps warrant the opinion that there has been an eruption of stones. There is but little doubt that the sand is thrown out at times in considerable quantities, and scattered around. This is the only way in which the plain surrounding the crater could be covered as it has been.

On my route I passed a third crater, the name of which I could not learn: the natives who were with me seemed to know little about it. There were several cones of coloured scoria, particularly a red one of large size within it. The dimensions of this crater were found to be three thousand feet in diameter, and about three hundred feet in depth. Finding that I had no time to spare, I was obliged to forego the idea of descending into it.

There is a tradition which relates that a whole army was once buried by the sand and ashes, while they were marching by, and that the shower was so great as to produce almost total darkness. This sand, I would here remark, bears a strong resemblance to that of the sand-hills caused by the late eruption at Nanavalie, which will be hereafter spoken of.

During the month that intervened between our visits, the black ledge