

had undergone some change. This was ascertained by a comparison of the outlines of the lower pit, bounded by the ledge, on the two occasions. A large projecting point on the east side of the black ledge had disappeared. The lakes of fire continued nearly the same, though the small one in the larger area seemed less active.

At about three o'clock, when I had reached the eastern edge of Lua Pele, all the party who were with me remarked a large column of smoke rising from that crater, and we, in consequence, ran towards the bank; but the sulphur-banks concealed the bottom of the crater and black ledge from our view. It immediately occurred to me, that an outbreak had taken place, by which the whole bottom of the lower crater would be overflowed, and that my friend, Dr. Judd, would find himself in a dangerous position, as he must at the time be near it. Not being able to reach any place where we could relieve our apprehensions, we were forced to continue our route, and shortly after descended to what is known as Lord Byron's Ledge, which lies between the two craters, Lua Pele (Pele's Pit) and Kilauea. The position of the hut occupied by Lord Byron is close to the brink of Kilauea. I noticed this place as proving that a recent eruption has taken place on the ledge. A flow of igneous matter has evidently run into both craters, and has covered the ledge with large sheets of lava. These are here and there broken through, forming a kind of funnel or bridge, from beneath which the lava has flowed, leaving the soil in places uninjured. Numbers of ferns, having a luxuriant growth, were found under these immense slabs. In examining the edge of the bank, I became satisfied of the correctness of the above opinion, as the flow over the ledge seems to have come from beneath, and to have coursed down the sides, either in broad ribands, or in streams like large cables, coiling themselves in confused layers on the black ledge. The flow into the pit seemed to be less fluid, as it did not reach the bottom, and flowed in one broad stream. Passing on, we reached the bluff bounding Waldron's Ledge, which is the highest part around the crater: it is bold and projecting, and in some places the path leads close under it, among large blocks that have fallen from it, either by the shaking of earthquakes or decomposition by time.

The annexed plate is taken from a camera lucida sketch, by Mr. Drayton; and gives an idea of the stratification of the walls around the crater.

When we ascended the bank, it became evident that the eruption had taken place at the small crater: this gave rise to much uneasiness respecting the party that had gone down. I searched with my glass in every part of the crater, but saw no one, although I was convinced