

chambers of great depth. Beyond these holes were innumerable cracks, increasing as we approached the southern end, to which I was hastening, because I had concluded to finish this part of the work before we became exhausted. In passing over these cracks, it became necessary to put the hand over the mouth to avoid the heated blast, which, as we proceeded, became more stifling with fumes of sulphur.

We at last reached the extreme end, where we measured our line, and took the angles as quickly as possible. The lake proved, from my measurement, to be fifteen hundred feet in length, by one thousand in width, and I found that it had sunk about one hundred feet during the last night, supposing Dr. Judd's estimate of its being twenty feet below its edge to be correct. It now appeared to be but little agitated, and the rocks on its side were left as if spattered with pitch, probably by the same kind of lava as that we had observed on the top of the mountain.

Just as I had completed the measurement, the sergeant gave me notice that he had perceived a movement in the bank, upon which I ordered a hasty retreat. One of the men who was before stumbled in his hurry, and fell, disappearing from our sight; we instantly stopped, and my heart rose to my throat. I could scarcely believe my eyes when I saw him rise again from the crust of lava, through which he had fallen into a chasm.

As we approached the sulphur-banks, there was much more heat and many more signs of action near it; the sulphur-bank was seen to be constantly in action, if I may so express it, similar to the slaking of lime. Numerous specimens of sulphur were obtained here, and one of a sulphate of copper of a fine blue colour. These crystals of sulphur were by no means so beautiful as we had found them at the northern bank.

In several of the caverns were stalactites in the form of a long cone, of a black colour, from eighteen inches to two feet in length, and an inch in diameter at the base: these were found to be solid, and of a silicious matter.

To stand on the black ledge and look around on the desolation which appears on every side, produces a feeling similar to those with which the scene of some dreadful conflagration would be viewed. The same description of sadness is felt that such a prospect would create, while there is in addition a feeling of insecurity, arising from the fires that are raging around, and are known to exist underneath.

Although the black ledge has the appearance of being level when seen from the top of the wall, it is not found to be so. It varies in