

being still so near the place where it had formerly stood. Some of the trunks were partly burnt, and others again had epiphytic plants still adhering to them.

In some places lava was found adhering to the leaves and branches of trees, appearing as if it had been spattered upon them. In some instances the lava thus adhering might have been taken for birds' nests, yet the wood exhibited no signs of fire. The circumstance which astonished me most, was the state of a copse of bamboos (*Bambusa arundinacea*), which the lava had not only divided, but passed on each side of: many of them were still living, and a part of the foliage remained uninjured. Some of the large trees, not more than twenty feet from the stream, seemed scarcely affected, and yet not thirty yards from them we lighted our sticks by putting them down no farther than two feet below the surface, although eight months had elapsed since the eruption happened. Nearer to the sea, all the foliage to the distance of three hundred and fifty yards from the lava stream was killed. To account for these circumstances, we must suppose either that the lava flows more rapidly, or that its power of radiating heat is much less than is generally believed.

The fixed stream has so much the appearance of a fluid mass that it is deceptive, and the whole seemed yet in motion. Fire and smoke were to be seen in many places. Its line of descent to the sea was on a declivity of one hundred feet to the mile, and according to the native account it reached the sea in two nights and a day—thirty-six hours. The distance being a little over ten miles, the velocity must have been about four hundred feet an hour.

We proceeded down the lava stream until it expanded to a width of three or four miles. There are many fissures along the whole line, as will be perceived by the dark places on the map. I feel confident that from each of these an ejection had taken place, and that the lava had in some cases flowed in a contrary direction to the general course of the stream; for being traced in such cases, it was seen to have proceeded from a fissure that had occurred on rising ground. Wherever the ground was steep, it was there perceived that tunnels or hollowed places occurred, in consequence of the molten lava having flowed from beneath the crust formed by cooling. The upper part of the stream was composed of the description of lava called *pahoihoi*; the lower portion was much broken, though not of that description called *clinkers*, and seemed as though it had been crowded together and broken up like ice in the breaking up of the frost in our rivers, slab overlaying slab, and many of them ground to pieces by the great pressure from behind.