

stunned. I regretted its loss; for it was a beautiful specimen, and one that we had been endeavouring to obtain for some days past.

During the night, one of the heaviest rains I had experienced in the island, fell; but the morning was bright and clear,—every thing seemed to be rejoicing around, particularly the singing-birds, for the variety and sweetness of whose notes Hawaii is distinguished.

Previous to our departure, all the tenantry, if so I may call them, came to pay their respects, or rather to take a look at us. We had many kind wishes, and a long line of attendants, as we wended our way among the numerous taro-patches of the low grounds, towards Puna; and thence along the sea-coast towards the place where the lava entered the sea, at Nanavalie. The whole population of this section of the country was by the wayside, which gave me an opportunity of judging of their number; this is much larger than might be supposed from the condition of the country, for with the exception of the point at Kapoho, very little ground that can be cultivated is to be seen. The country, however, is considered fruitful by those who are acquainted with it, notwithstanding its barren appearance on the roadsides. The inhabitants seemed to have abundance of bread-fruit, bananas, sugar-cane, taro, and sweet-potatoes. The latter, however, are seen to be growing literally among heaps of stones and pieces of lava, with scarcely soil enough to cover them; yet they are, I am informed, the finest on the island.

At Puna, there is a large church; but no appearance of a village, the houses being much scattered. The church, it is said, will contain two or three thousand persons. The Rev. Mr. Coan, I understood, officiates here occasionally.

Before reaching Nanavalie, we passed through Kanakiki, a small village; and the sand-hills at the former place were reached before noon, when I was enabled to get the meridian observations. The height of the highest sand-hill was found to be two hundred and fifty feet: it is perpendicular on the side next the sea, which is rapidly washing it away. Here we met several natives, who confirmed the story of the earthquakes, and said that they had been very severe. I have not before stated the fact, that none were felt at Hilo; and indeed earthquakes on Hawaii seem to be local. One was said to have taken place during my visit to Mauna Loa; but no one of the party felt any shock.

There are three of these sand-hills, which caused me more astonishment, and involved greater difficulties to account for them, than any other phenomenon connected with the eruption. From the accounts given me, the coast at Nanavalie, previous to the eruption, was one