

projecting ledge of lava: close by there were several pools of water. Such pools form in the compact lava; and where this rock occurs, water is to be met with at intervals, while in the porous lava none is to be found.

On the 13th, they set out at an early hour, and passed a belt where the vegetation became very rich, and the variety great, particularly on the sheltered banks of the ravines. Among the plants were several Compositæ, two or three with decussate leaves, *Pelargonium Douglasii*, five or six species of ferns, several Rubiaceæ, grasses, and other small plants.

About three miles beyond this, they reached a cave, where they intended to leave the natives and baggage. It was difficult to induce the former to come up even thus far, on account of the cold; but being here in the vicinity of wood, they were enabled to have a fire to keep themselves warm: water was also at hand. This cave was a convenient rendezvous, and sufficiently near the top to allow them time to reach it and return in a day. Some of the natives had gone down to a larger cave, three quarters of a mile below.

A few wild cattle were to be seen in the distance; but, according to the report of Dawson, their guide, they ought to have heard from this position cattle lowing in every direction.

On the 14th, one of their guides was sent off after a bullock; Kanuha, the chief, having granted permission to the party to shoot one.

Dr. Pickering, Mr. Brackenridge, and Billy Lilly, set out for the summit. When about three miles above their rendezvous, and having the high hill of red scoria to the south, they entered upon a plain, of many miles in extent. On reaching this, the vegetation of temperate climates almost at once disappeared, and an Arctic flora succeeded. This plain is made desolate by stones, gravel, sand, scoria, and boulders: a few scanty blades of two sorts of grasses (*Aira* and *Panicum*), and one or two stone-mosses, were all the verdure, if such it may be called, that was seen. The whole plain resembled the dry bed of some great river over which the water had passed for ages. There was no appearance of lava streams or clinkers, as on Mauna Loa. In the distance rose six peaks, around whose bases were rough blocks of lava, while towards their tops scoria of a red colour, with gravel, prevailed.

On their way, they passed through a gap to the southeast of the three terminal hills, where stood the stone pen, said to mark the place where the Rev. Mr. Bingham was once lost. The terminal peaks were found steep and very fatiguing to ascend; and when they reached the