

and appeared to have been vomited forth through a chain of vents in a highly heated state, spreading destruction around, and leaving not a vestige of the forest remaining, although it covered a space of about two miles square. Scoria which had been pressed or had run off to the edges, had overthrown all the bushes and trees with which it had come in contact; these remained unconsumed, proving conclusively that the scoria had been much less heated, or had cooled so rapidly as not to have injured the vegetation.

The direction of the course of this stream was east-northeast, through a dense forest. Owing to the great roughness of the field, they were not able to walk upon it: its margin was equally impassable, owing to the entangled state of the bushes and trees, which had been pressed together by the lava. Taking a parallel course with this eruption, they suddenly came upon a pit-crater, which is named on the map "the Old Crater." This they found to be one hundred and fifty feet deep, and covered with bushes; its diameter is about one mile. Towards the centre, steam was issuing from some small cracks. They now ascended part of Moku-opuhi, but found themselves soon on the edge of another pit-crater, the deepest they had yet seen: the walls of this appeared to be of more recent date than the others, for the north part of the hill bounded it, and it was supposed to be eighteen hundred feet deep.

The old bank to the south was clothed with bushes: the part of this which they ascended proved very treacherous to the footing, and occasioned no small panic, as it gave way underneath their feet, threatening them with instant destruction.

On the 1st of January, they pursued some of the steam-vents, until they reached the Pahuhali road. Here Mr. Brinsmade left them, to proceed on his way to Hilo, where he shortly afterwards embarked for Oahu, with his health (as he wrote me) quite re-established, notwithstanding the fatigue and exposure he had undergone. To his agreeable disposition on the journey, and his kind attention to us during our stay in these islands, we feel ourselves greatly indebted.

Messrs. Drayton and Brackenridge continued their route to Pahuhali, where they procured a guide to take them to the lava stream. Pahuhali is a small village situated one and a half miles from it. They soon reached the great flow, which had spread destruction throughout its course, leaving nothing standing that came in its way. It was from one to three miles wide: down its middle was seen the long channel or rent from which the stream had poured forth, running for the most part smooth, though occasionally in wrinkled and twisted forms, the scoria lying on the outer extremities of the flow, as though