

scene; for on descending from the black ledge to the bottom of the crater, he found the way quite familiar, and every toppling rock was precisely in the same position. The bottom of the crater had been entirely overflowed during our absence, which made it more even, and the travelling more easy.

The new lava was of four or five different varieties, as if each overflow had been of a different kind. The variety that seemed to predominate was quite thick and solid, and its crust had something of a metallic or leaden lustre; the solidity of the layers seemed to be in proportion to their thickness, and where this was five or six feet, the central parts were compact and nearly destitute of vesicles.

On first entering on the lower lava, Mr. Colvocoressis and the Doctor found it was so hot that they were fearful they could not proceed; but on advancing they found the heat did not increase, and by avoiding the small lake, which was then overflowing, they had no difficulty in reaching the larger one.

The surface was, as has been before remarked, about thirty feet below the rim: they were to the north of the great lake, and from that side of the cauldron the jets were thrown up. Walking up to the edge, they found it was impossible to look at the glowing pool for more than an instant at a time, on account of the heat and glare on the face and eyes, that made it necessary to retreat almost immediately a few paces backward. The more distant and darker part of the lake appeared little less glowing. The noise, which has been represented by former visitors as so terrific, and the absence of which I have before remarked, was so trifling during this visit that it was not even regarded by them in conversation. In this place Dr. Pickering says they remained some ten minutes, but truly remarks, "It may have been more or less; for, to look on the tottering banks, seemingly so inadequate to hold a fluid like this, to see it glowing with almost a white heat, just above the surface, and the current directing itself towards them, and to reflect upon the falling in that had occurred the evening before; added to which, Judd's Lake might, by a change of its overflow to a contrary direction, have cut off all retreat." It was indeed no place to take note of time.

That variety of lava which is destitute of a vitreous crust, is found on the black ledge alone, and none of it was observed in the lower pit. Noises of all kinds were carefully attended to, and if not heard were expected and referred to the crater itself: these sometimes proceed from the rolling down of small pieces of lava on the black ledge, making a pattering kind of noise, by no means pleasant.