

gradual, so that it is only by the increasing coldness of the atmosphere that the elevation is detected, it is really a rise of 4000 feet in the thirty miles. The half-way house (just a rough grass native shanty) was reached in due course, and here a short stay was made for rest and refreshment, after which we started on again, all being anxious to reach the crater before night set in. Continuing our journey, the country altering but little in appearance, except that, perhaps, the trees appeared of more sombre aspect, all at once, on emerging from a dense forest, a glare, brighter and redder than from any furnace, suddenly brightened up the whole sky. The heavens became brilliant, and when the Volcano House (a small hotel) was reached, clouds of red vapour, mixed with flame, were curling ceaselessly out of a large invisible pit of darkness, and Kilauea was in all its fiery glory : we had reached the crater of the largest volcano in the world.

We took up our quarters at the Volcano Hotel, a long building, constructed of grass and bamboo, which all thought very comfortable after the long and wearying journey. Here a good dinner was ordered, and during its preparation it was cheerful to sit round the great wood fire, for the night was somewhat cool at this altitude.

After rest and a refreshing dinner all set off to see the sights; not far to go at first, for the mighty crater is situated only a short distance from