

doubt deer, which have been turned out, will thrive there and multiply rapidly. A few small sandalwood trees remain uncut in the vicinity.

When the crater of Kilauea was reached it appeared in the dark as a wide abyss filled with gloom, but in the distance were seen three or four glowing spots, reminding one of the furnaces seen at night in the Black Country, and every now and then a jet of glowing matter showed itself thrown up from a lava fountain, which happened to be playing at the time.

In the morning the crater was seen to be bounded by a range of cliffs all round, and at the bottom was a wide flat expanse of hardened lava which looked as fresh as if it had only just set (see Frontispiece to Part II.). The crater has evidently been formed by the sudden falling in of vast masses of rock by the fusion and flowing away of the supporting rock below. A succession of smaller secondary cliffs round the inner margin of the crater-bottom mark where this process has been repeated several times, for after the crater has been filled to certain levels, and the lava has hardened, the support has given way on successive occasions over the greater part of the area. The smooth surface of the lava within the crater was very like that traversed on the journey from Hilo; it was cracked by contraction on cooling in all directions, and through all the cracks, at a depth of a foot or so, was seen to be glowing hot.

The well-known molten lake of Kilauea was at the time of the visit rather to be termed a pond, for a stone could have been thrown across it; it occupied a small area on the floor of the main crater. It was possible to stand on a low cliff overhanging it on the side from which the wind drifted away the stifling vapours exhaled from it, and to throw stones into the pond of melted rock below. A low cliff bounded the expanse nearly all round. At the base of this cliff opposite, in three places, a violent surging was constantly taking place, the melted rock being thrown up high above the cliff by violent discharges of gas from below. The melted rock was thrown in waves against the base of the cliff which, as they surged against it, made a noise like that of waves of the sea beating similarly against rocks. There seemed to be no tenacity about the melted lava, it splashed about just like water. As the waves fell back from the bases of the cliffs, pendent coagulations of lava were formed for an instant, and hung in the glowing cavities like icicles, but were re-melted in a moment by the returning waves, which glowed brightly with heat as they were thrown up. The lake itself was covered with a thin black scum of coagulated lava with red-hot cracks in it, and the whole moved slowly round under the influence of the ebullition taking place at one side as above described.

Close by was another but smaller pond, where, however, the churning up of the lava was more violent; it occurred here also, as in the other pond, at the bases of the low bounding cliffs only. The waves dashed against the cliffs, threw their spray high into the air above them, and the wind carried part of this spray over the edges of the cliffs so as to fall on the hard lava platform far above.