

The spray masses cooling as they fell, formed in their track the threads known as "Pele's hair," like fine-spun green glass. Many of the threads could be picked up, each with the small mass of hardened lava still attached. These fallen masses are closely like drops thrown out of a pitch-pot. Some were nearly pear-shaped; others, which had reached the ground before setting, or when only partially set, had coiled up into various forms as they fell, but nearly all showed an upright fine point, where a hair had been

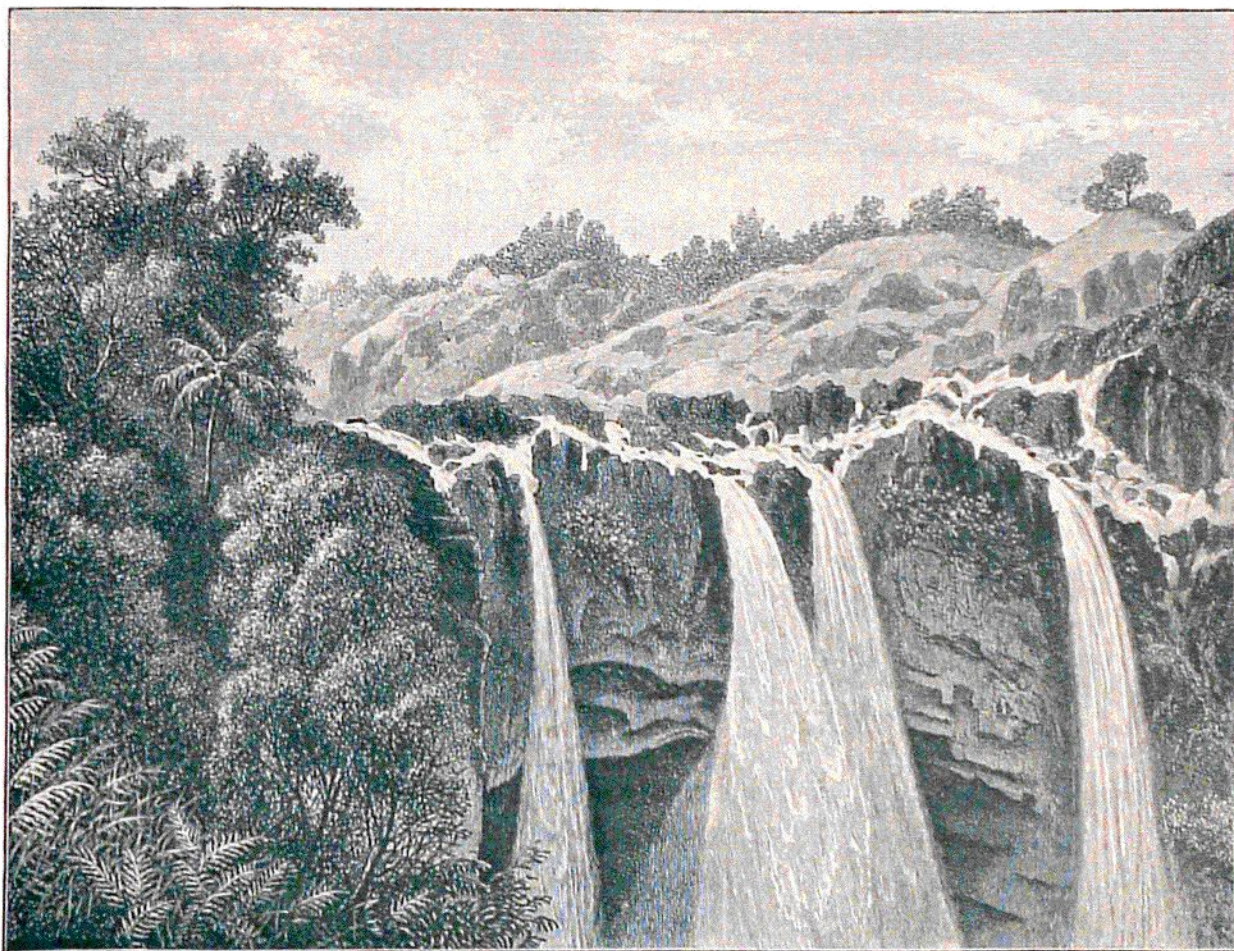


FIG. 268.—Falls of Waianuene, near Hilo.

attached to them. Pele's hair, thus formed, drifts away with the wind and hangs in felted masses about the rocks, and the birds sometimes gather it, and make their nests entirely of it.

Between the two ponds was the lava fountain, which had been seen playing the night before, but was now quiet. A lava fountain is a tall hollow cone, an extinguisher as it were, which is built up of successive jets of lava thrown out of a hole at the summit, and hardened one over the other. The surface of the cone looks as if built up of small masses of pitch thrown on to it hap-hazard one over another. As the mouth