

from which a descent of about 100 feet was made into an outer ancient crater, corresponding to the Canadas of the Peak of Tenerife.

There are two such outer ancient craters at the summit of the Peak of Ternate, and the ridges forming their old borders and the outer portions of the bottoms of the craters themselves are traversed in succession on the way to the terminal modern cone of eruption which stands in the inner of the two.

The outer and oldest of the craters is a wild-looking place, inhabited by numerous wild pigs and deer. It is covered with a growth of bushes and a small tree fern, and four other species of ferns,* and with these grows a Club-moss (*Lycopodium*), and a Whortleberry (*Vaccinium*). The shrubs were apparently of only two species, and the flora seemed very poor in number of species.

The second ridge, making the summit of the inner extinct crater, is about 50 feet higher than the outer one. Within this inner crater there is scarcely any vegetation, a few scattered blades of grass only. Here we met with a large mass of lava, evidently recently ejected from the active crater, and hurled to this distance. The mass had a smooth reddened surface, and was deeply split all over by cracks formed evidently by contraction on cooling.

The terminal cone itself is entirely devoid of vegetation. The cavity of the inner extinct crater from which it rises is filled up, except at its margin, by the results of later eruptions. Hence the base of the terminal cone lies about 60 feet above the level of the margin of this crater, and is approached by a gentle ascent.

The cone itself rises steeply and suddenly, with a slope of 30°, and is about 350 feet in height. The guides had hesitated somewhat when we ascended the slope leading out of the first extinct crater, and had done their best to persuade us not to go any further, telling us that it was dangerous to proceed. They lagged behind as we approached the terminal cone, and as soon as we began to climb it, turned round and ran back as fast as they could go.

We were told afterwards that they have strong superstitious fears concerning the volcano, and believe that if any one climbs the terminal cone, a terrible eruption and earthquake are certain to ensue. It appears as if there might be some real risk in the ascent. The cone is not composed of ashes, but of masses of basaltic lava of various sizes; all of these on the

* *Gleichenia dichotoma*, *Pteris incisa*, *Polypodium phlebiscopum*. J. G. Baker, F.R.S., "On the Polynesian Ferns of the 'Challenger' Expedition." Journ. of Linn. Soc., Bot., Vol. XII., p. 104.