

this cloud, perpetually re-formed by condensation, was lighted up by a brilliant orange glow reflected from the molten lava in the great terminal crater, and the appearance was just as if a fire was raging in the forest in the distance.

With the evening appeared an Owl: I suppose the short-eared Owl (*Otus brachiotus*), an English, European, Asian and African bird, but which is most curiously found in no other Polynesian group besides the Sandwich Islands. A Duck also rose from a small marsh. A species of Duck is described as visiting the islands from America, a distance of 2,000 miles.* Another species occurring in the islands has been described as peculiar to the group by Mr. Sclater from "Challenger" specimens. Since this latter Duck was formerly supposed to migrate to the islands from America, there may be some mistake also with regard to the other species.

Not far from the crater of Kilauea there are abundant woods of Acacia koa trees and plenty of herbage, and no doubt Deer which have been turned out will thrive there and multiply rapidly. A few small Sandalwood-trees still remain uncut in the vicinity.

The crater 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 furnaces seen at night in the Black Country, and every now and again 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. The crater has evidently been formed by the sudden falling in of a vast mass of rock resulting from the fusion and flowing away of the supporting rock below. A succession of secondary smaller cliffs round the margin of the crater-bottom inside mark where this process has been repeated several times, as after the crater has been filled to certain levels and the lava has hardened, the support has given way over the greater part of the area on successive occasions.

The smooth surface of the lava within the crater was closely like that traversed on the journey from Hilo. It was cracked by contraction on cooling in all directions, and in all the cracks at the depth of a foot or so, glowing hot lava was to be seen.

The well-known molten lake of Kilauea was at the time of our visit rather to be termed a pond, for a stone could easily be thrown across it. We stood on a low cliff overhanging it on

* Finsch und Hartlaub. "Beitrag zur Fauna Central Polynesiens." Halle. H. W. Schmidt, 1867.