

the side from which the wind drifted away the stifling vapours exhaled from it, and threw stones into the pond of melted rock below. A low cliff bounded the expanse nearly all round. At the base of this cliff opposite us, 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 beneath.

The melted rock was thrown against the base of the cliff in waves which, as they surged against it, made a noise like that of waves of the sea beating similarly against rocks. There seemed no tenacity in 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 remelted in a moment by the returning waves.

The waves when thrown up were glowing brightly with heat. The lake, itself, was covered with a thin black scum of coagulated lava with red-hot cracks in it, and the whole scum moved slowly round under the influence of the ebullition taking place at one side as 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 above.

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 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 a lava fountain, the one 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, with a hole at the summit, which is built up of successive jets of lava thrown out of a hole, 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 haphazard one over another.