

The height we had now attained was two thousand one hundred and eighty-four feet; the thermometer, 72° ; the lowest temperature in the night, 58° . A slight shower of rain fell during the night.

At 8 A.M., we left Kapuauhi, or what our company called "Flea Hall," after having passed a most comfortless night. Nothing could be more annoying than the swarms of fleas that attacked us, and I believe all the native houses are thus unpleasantly infested. In about three hours we reached the Okea tree, known as the boundary of the territory of Pele, or the goddess of the volcano. In bygone days no native dared venture beyond it without an offering to Pele, under penalty of her vengeance. Many strange traditions are told of her, and of the combats she waged with the ancient warriors of the island, in which she destroyed whole armies by her "floods of fire." Dr. Judd and myself, while at the volcano, listened to one of these long traditions from a young man named Kiwe, a descendant of one of the "tradition bearers," who were employed specially to hand down the traditions in their family, and were thus the depositaries of the oral archives of the nation. Kiwe came from Panau, in the neighbourhood of this district of fire, and we were, of course, very desirous of obtaining any information he could give. As he had come to offer himself as guide, he was sent for to our hut, and was asked to take a seat. Kalumo, the chief scribe, before spoken of, was sent for, and began to question him relative to the traditions. Kiwe began by describing various great chiefs and their genealogies, but nothing relating to their feats or actions, except that the great chief of Papapala and the goddess Pele had quarrelled about a surf-board, which ended in his being consumed, after having attempted to cross the fiery lake upon it. Many interrogatories were put to him, but he soon became sullen and refused to answer; he told us he had discovered our intention, and that he knew we were going to put what he said in a book, that every body might read it, and therefore he would give us no further information. This I hope will be received as a sufficient apology for my not giving the histories and details of these marvellous personages; for, according to Kiwe, by relating them he would lose his occupation as soon as they were printed.

Soon after we left Kapuauhi, we met with soil formed upon the lava by volcanic ashes; the bushes became thicker and more thrifty, rising into small trees; quantities of strawberry-vines were perceived, but the natives searched in vain for some straggling fruit. The time for its bearing had passed, but they are said to be found in great abundance, and of very fine flavour, at the proper season. Okea was the principal wood, and there was some koa (Acacia). A curious plant