

certainly two, if not three days' journey from the summit, and an ascent of eight thousand feet was still to be accomplished.

After dark the mist cleared off, when we saw the majestic cloud of the volcano hanging as though illuminated in its position. This is one of the best guides for the mountain, both by night and by day; any one who visits Mauna Loa, and the crater, cannot but admire this constant emblem of the destructive elements below, fitted as it is, from its purity, grace, and majestic appearance, to blend harmoniously with the blue vault above.

It was determined to fix a post here, in order to forward supplies of wood and articles of provision as they came from below. Pea, our chief, was accordingly ordered to select a site which would answer this purpose.

On Monday, 21st, we set out at an early hour. The ascent now became much steeper than any we had hitherto experienced, for the whole face of the mountain consisted of one mass of lava, that had apparently flowed over in all directions from the summit. The sun shone brightly, and his rays seemed to fall with increased power on the black lava. No wind was stirring, and the exhaustion consequent on the rarefied air we were breathing, made the labour of climbing very fatiguing; many suffered from nausea and headache, and the desire for water redoubled in both whites and natives. For water they could no longer find a substitute in berries, as they had previously done, for that fruit had disappeared, and the only vegetation left was a few tufts of grass.

About noon, Dr. Judd volunteered to proceed with the guide to ascertain if there was any snow, and at what distance. It was agreed that we should continue to move on in the same direction, and encamp when we found we could get no higher. Most of the party were now lying about on the rocks, with the noonday sun pouring on them; a disposition to sleep, and a sensation and listlessness similar to that produced by sea-sickness, seemed to prevail. I felt the former strongly myself, and enjoyed as sound an hour's sleep on the hard lava as I have ever had. The burdens had become intolerably heavy, and all complained of their inability to carry them. The use of the sextant had become still more fatiguing than the day before, causing me much pain to hold it. From what I myself experienced, I was satisfied that every one's strength had decreased nearly one-half.

We managed, after an hour's rest, to go on two miles further, and then encamped. No place offered where we could drive a peg for the tents, and loose blocks of lava were resorted to, to confine the cords. The principal inducement for stopping at this spot was the discovery