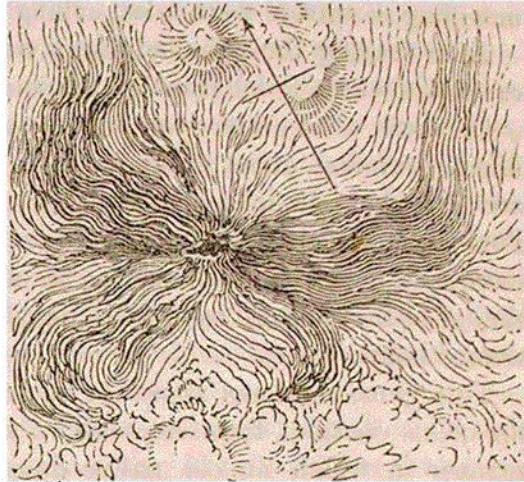


About six miles from the sea, it appeared as though there had been a simultaneous outbreak over a large area. The stream was sufficiently fluid at all places to seek the lowest level, and an idea of the flowing may be formed from the annexed diagram, which I sketched from the top of a cone.

Near the centre of this flow was a mound that had been covered with trees. These were all left standing, but had not a leaf upon them, which increased the desolate appearance of the scene before us. In our walk we occasionally



LAVA FLOW.

met a "blowing cone," with quantities of salts, sulphur, and hot sulphureous gases still issuing from it.

After having satisfied ourselves with this part, we ascended an old crater-hill, and crossing over it, came to an old lava plain of the kind called pahoihoi: this appeared quite solid, and its surface was unbroken; there were no holes like those I have described on the recent flow; but in place of them there were a large number of raised truncated cones, some of which were inverted. These appeared to me to have been lava jets that had resulted from a subsequent flow of the upper pahoihoi, which had been forced upwards, cooling as it met the air, and congealing. Each of these pillars was perforated with a hole from top to bottom, and the lava that composed them was laminated. The wood-cut of lava jets will be seen at the end of this chapter.

These columns are sometimes twenty feet high, and some of them resemble colossal statues of rude workmanship.

As long as the pahoihoi lasted, we had pleasant walking; but it did not reach far, for the rough lava seemed to predominate in our path, and made the way irksome and fatiguing.

This hill has a tradition attached to it, which one of our guides related to us. When Palila, one of their gods, in former times, was on the hill roasting bananas, the people of Papapala saw the smoke, and went up to ascertain who was there. They found only a boy cooking bananas, and attempted to take them from him; but his power was such, that he beat them all and drove them down the mountain; and they never again ventured to encounter so powerful a god.