

umes of smoke and steam rolled heavily up, rendering the lurid glare still more powerful, while the heavy detonations and loud reports of exploding gasses, and the roar of the conflicting elements were distinctly heard twenty-five miles off, like discharges of artillery.

With such rapidity and to such a degree was the water heated that the following day, (June 5th,) the fish floated when dead, as far as Keaau, fifteen miles distant, where the water was hot to the touch. Five weeks after, the sea washing up against the new formed hills, was still of a scalding temperature.

No one has yet examined the original outbreak of the lava, and it is impossible at present to state its precise locality. From the reports of natives, it evidently cannot be many miles to the east of Kilauea. At first it was supposed that a new crater was formed, but the present appearance of the old volcano, conclusively shows that the late eruption had its origin from it: having drained it as we have seen before, several hundred feet. Kilauea is forty miles inland from where the recent stream discharged itself into the sea. The intervening country has a descent of about one hundred feet to the mile, varying of course according to the irregularities of the surface. A native who said he had been to the source of the lava, described it as gushing out of the ground like a spring of water, which no doubt is the case. It doubtless worked its way by some subterranean channel from the old crater, until it found a weak spot in the earth, and gushed out. Probably not at one place, or at the same distance from the crater, but irregularly along its whole course, as its gravity forced vents; so that its source would present nothing different from its sides. However this is a mere supposition and can only be verified by surveying its whole length, which want of time only prevented us from accomplishing. At first the lava was said to have been divided into several streams, following along the old ridges of the soil. As it continued to increase they met, and forming one body, pushed its way on, filling up valleys, swelling over hills, and when it met with any great impediment, spreading itself out into a lake. Thus four leagues from the shore, it has formed one estimated at six miles square, before it overcame the natural barrier which checked its progress. Precipitating itself over that like a vast sheet of water, it continued its course from a half mile to a league in breadth, until it reached the ocean.

The general direction of the stream is N. E., varying from N. to E. Its whole length is, as near as can at present be judged, between twenty and thirty miles, some say including its windings, forty. But all the data in regard to its length, breadth and depth, must at present be confined to mere rough estimates, until it has become sufficiently cooled to admit of regular measurements. Lava cools quickly and consolidates on its surface, but in the interior the heat concentrates, and remains for years. It will probably be a long time before smoke and steam cease to arise from this. The depth of the crust, as seen down the fissures, was from ten to twenty feet. Its average height above the surrounding soil was eight feet. At first it flowed smoothly, and after remaining so for ten days, in cooling broke up into its present rough state. It now forms a bed of hot "clinkers," unsurpassed in sharpness and cragginess by any on the islands.

After it had ceased running, it was reported that many lives were lost; but upon careful inquiry we could learn of no one who perished. An old woman having died the night before was left in a hut and her body consumed. Several houses, a multitude of hogs and poultry were destroyed, but their owners had abundant time to escape. It overflowed "two lands," according to Hawaiian division of country, Nanawale and Kanahikio. They were poor and thinly in-

habited. It entered the ocean about eight miles to the N. W. from the east point of the island, and now presents the appearance as seen in the accompanying plate. The superstitious fears of some of the old natives have been revived by this occurrence, and without doubt, adoration is secretly paid to the goddess Pele. Some consider her as enraged at the neglect of her worship, and that they must hasten to propitiate their offended deity — while others attribute it to the agency of the spirit of some powerful departed chief.

It is singular that an eruption of this magnitude should occur without the slightest shock of earthquake, at least none was noticed if any happened, which proves that this was the effect of no sudden, violent action, but one of long and gradual preparation. On Wednesday, June 3rd, three new hills, of a mile in length and of seven hundred to eight hundred feet elevation, were seen from Hilo, in the direction of the first outbreak. Thursday was rainy, and they were not visible, and on Friday they had entirely disappeared. No earthquake was perceived, though the natives report that a slight shock took place at the time.

Three years since, smoke and steam were seen issuing from near where the present eruption commenced, and two years ago a great rent was made in the ground, and all the springs in the vicinity dried up.

The above are all the facts of any interest which we were able to collect in regard to this great eruption. No doubt others of much interest will come to light hereafter. All should be preserved, as incidents of this nature, form quite an epoch in the natural history of the islands, and go far to illustrate their formation, and peculiar characteristics. Besides in point of magnitude, it has been seldom surpassed. The largest on record was that of Iceland, which occurred in 1783 and formed a current twenty leagues in length, by four in breadth. The largest current which has ever issued from Vesuvius was about eleven miles long. One from Ætna in 1778, was somewhat larger.

July 10.— Having received notice that the vessel in which we were to take passage for Oahu, was waiting our arrival at Hilo, we directed our steps once more towards that place. Our course led us along the shore, formed by a wall of twenty feet in height, on which the surf rolled heavily, and loudly. The country bordering it, was very picturesque and quite fertile. Here and there dotted with native hamlets amid shady groves. They were in primitive style, and the inhabitants appeared poor and destitute. Civilization had evidently made but little progress in this direction, and the whole scene, probably differed but little from what it appeared in the days of Cook, excepting that we saw no heiau, or signs of idolatrous worship, or any rudeness or incivility among the people. It had the air of repose and happiness which was very gratifying, particularly in contrast with the dreary spectacle we had recently left. The men were mostly employed in fishing, but assembled readily at the sound of a conch, to attend the meetings, at which Mr. L. discoursed at every village we passed through. From the traces of cultivation, the numerous stone pavements and terraces, and the care bestowed in the erection of their houses, now old and out of repair, this was once no doubt a populous district. It is so now in comparison with others, but the inhabitants appear to be borne down by oppression and slavery. This cannot be attributed to missionary enterprise, for they seldom see a preacher, or attend meetings. Their labors being limited to an occasional tour through the district, and the attempt to form schools among the children, which are, however, dependent upon native teachers. However, as the chiefs cannot arrest the progress of civilization, or bring the world back to their ideas, they seem now to be making an effort to come up with it, and we sincerely hope that future tourists will have a more prosperous tale to record.

One thing struck us as remarkable all over the island; the natives appeared to have a somewhat different cast of countenance from the others of the group, varying but little, but still perceptible. There was more of the African physiognomy, a somewhat darker skin, and on the whole, a more repulsive appearance. The women were particularly homely, and destitute of all personal attractions. It may be that we saw only the worst portion of the inhabitants, but such was the fact in regard to those we met.

We arrived at Hilo the same afternoon, and spent the two following days there. On Sunday Mr. Coan preached, in a familiar, conversational manner, to a congregation of two thousand persons. They made quite a respectable appearance, being mostly clothed, and listened attentively to the sermon. The plan of Mr. C. to engage their attention, by colloquial discourses, appeared, at least in this instance, to be eminently successful. And in all native congregations we should think it much better calculated to arrest their attention, and meet their understanding, than the more stiff and abstruse discourses of most other preachers.

The next day, the vessel being ready, we left this pleasant spot with much regret, and with a sincere desire to revisit those families, whose attentions contributed so much to our enjoyment while there. Besides we had traveled just long enough to become inured to the hardships, and to have our curiosity awakened to visit all we had left unseen. But duty compelled us to return and leave the remainder for another tour, and if our readers have been at all interested in these way-side notes, our labors are more than repaid.

The plate which accompanies this paper, is a sketch of the three hills formed in the sea by the late eruption. It was executed at Lahainaluna, by a native, and gives a very good idea of the appearance of the hills at the period of our visit. It may also be of interest as a specimen of Hawaiian skill. The black rock on the right, is intended to show the old line of coast over which the lava has flowed, and broken up in the rough manner as shown in the plate. The left extremity is where the sea now washes up, about a third of a mile distant from the old coast. The whole surface should have been represented with much more smoke and steam issuing from it, but our not being on the spot during its engraving, has prevented that accuracy of detail by the artist which might otherwise have been given.

SILK BUSINESS AT WAIOLI, KAUAI.

It gives us great pleasure to notice the flourishing state of Mr. C. Titcomb's silk plantation at Waioli, Kauai. He commenced operations less than a year ago, and has now eighty acres under cultivation, and nearly 100,000 trees agrowing; 10,000 of these are the *Morus-multicaulis*, the remainder, White, Canton and native Mulberry. So well adapted is the soil to their growth, that cuttings set out last November, are now from eleven to fourteen feet high, and of two inches butt. Trees cut down in May last are now nine feet high. *Morus-multicaulis* slips planted in November last of but two buds each, are now from seven to ten feet high. Leaves of the Canton cuttings measure thirteen inches in length by ten in breadth. Those of the *Multicaulis* eleven by nine; the average may be a little less, but some leaves are fourteen in length by eleven wide.

He is now feeding all the worms he has accommodations for. They are principally of the mixed Chinese and American breed, with some pure American. Within two months, he will be ready to feed

500,000 at once. The cocoons average about 3,200 to a pound of raw silk. There is now no reason to doubt that the soil and climate of the Islands is very favorable to the culture of the mulberry and production of silk, and it will probably become one of the most important branches of its domestic industry. We shall endeavor at some future time to lay before our readers more information upon this subject.

COMMUNICATED.

To the Editor of the Polynesian.

Sir,— In your paper of the 22d instant, I notice a communication signed, "A Merchant," which exhibits the French nation in no enviable light.

According to his interpretation of "Laplace's treaty," the subjects of his Hawaiian Majesty are guaranteed no right or privilege in France at all commensurate with those granted to French subjects here. This exclusive benefit no magnanimous nation would require; especially of a weak and powerless one, which was unable to cope with her in arms.

As the treaty referred to professes to be one of friendship and peace, suppose we transpose the names of France and Sandwich Islands for a moment, and see how the sixth article would then read.

"Art. 6. Sandwich Island merchandises, or those known to be Sandwich Islands produce, and particularly wines and *eaux de vies*, (brandy,) cannot be prohibited, and shall not pay an import duty higher than 5 per cent *ad valorem*."

If French merchandises and produce cannot be prohibited here, will "A Merchant" explain how Sandwich Island merchandises and produce can be prohibited in France? And further, if a duty of 5 per cent only shall be levied on French produce here, will "A Merchant" have the goodness to explain how a duty nearly prohibitory will be levied on S. I. produce in France?

Should your correspondent fail satisfactorily to explain these points, some persons, both here and elsewhere will begin to think that a treaty which confers all the favors on one side, and that the strongest, was not only "insisted on" but compelled, through fear of a future exercise of force; which inference would place the strongest party in the attitude of receiving special favors, for which she refuses the common justice of reciprocity. Or, in other words, of being guilty of robbery.

Take care, Mr. "Merchant," how you show up La Belle France.

Yours, etc. A RESIDENT.
Aug. 24, 1840.

EXTRACTS.

CANDID.—"You've visited my daughter for a long time," said an anxious mother, to a young gentleman of our acquaintance the other day, "What are your intentions, sir?"—"Honorable, entirely so," said the gentleman, "I intend 'backing out' as coachmen say."—"You do, do you? backing out, ha! and pray sir, what may be your reason for deceiving the poor girl in that way?"—"I have several," said our friend. "Well name one, if you can, you imp of Satan—you little-waisted, knock-need, pale-faced, no-whiskered dolt—you thing, you scrap, you—"—"Your daughter," said he, interrupting her, "don't wear her bustle right. I have seen it one-sided. Her dress-maker tells me she is padded in a dozen places, and wears two pair of stays—her false teeth don't stay in well, and she puts castor oil on her wig. Madam, I can't stand such carelessness—you'll let me off now, I reckon." The old woman did let him off, for in two minutes she and her daughter were seen streaking it down street, probably to tear out the eyes of the dress-maker. *New Orleans Times.*