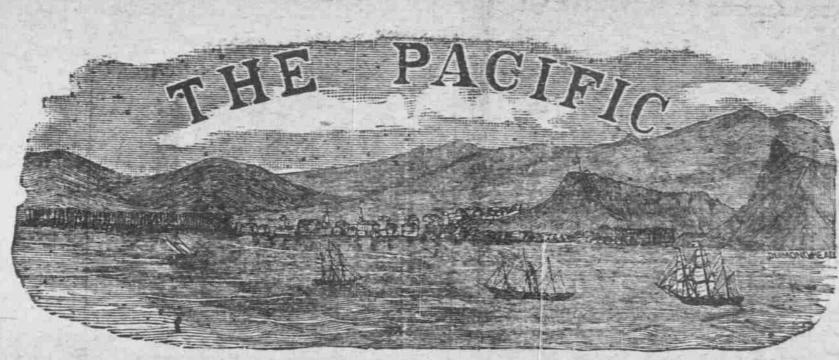
Commercial



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THE VOLCANO OF KILAUEA, HAWAII.

All Ablaze Again! A River of Fire!

Madame Pele's Appearance.

Various accounts have been published in our local and foreign papers during the past year relative to the Volcano, written, for the most part, by strangers, who, having never visited it before, have not been able to give such descriptions as might enable those who saw it previous to the collapse of 1886, to form a correct idea of what it now is, or whether it is regaining its former activity, or is likely to become less active or extinct, as has been asserted. It was with the view of satisfying myself on these and other points, that I made a trip there recently, which is my fifteenth visit, the first dating back to 1854.

It will be remembered that the fires of Kilauea became extinct in March, 1886; and this was the fifth or sixth time that a similar occurrence has taken place since 1840. The cause has, on each occasion, undoubtedly been the opening of a subterranean channel by an eruption at a lower level, serving to drain off its molten lavas. On one occasion this extinction was for less than a week, and as far as known, it has never been for so long a period as in the present instance. when the fires could for months be only found hidden in caves or fissures, and the return of the molten lava has been very slow. The cause of its tardiness is the higher elevation of the craters at the present time. The new lake, which has been very appropriately named in honor of Prof. Dana, of Yale College, who visited the crater in 1887, about the time it began to form, is located three or four hundred feet above the active lake of 1850, and probably 600 feet above that of 1840. The entire floor of Kilauea is gradually filling up with lava overflowed or upheaved, and if this process goes on for the next fifty years as it has for the past half century, Kilauea will be a mound or hill, the top of which will be several hundred feet higher than the present bluffs on its southern and

western sides. The collapse of 1886 consisted not only of a complete extinction of the fires in the crater, but also a disappearance of the walls and cones surrounding and forming Halemanman and South Crater, both of which, after the occurrence, presented huge basins several hundred feet deep, in an almost level plateau, with no fire or smoke or other evidence of activity—as completely dead as though they had been extinct for many years. After some weeks or months the subterranean forces began to raise the collapsed craters and force up their floors and surrounding walls till now (nearly three years) the appearance of the section of Kilauea occupied by the above two craters, very much resembles that of 1886, prior to the collapse. The cones that now encircle these old craters have risen fully two hundred feet higher than the western wall of the large crater. What was known as the South Lake or crater has lately been filled up by its floor being raised, and now, instead of being an empty bowl, it is a hill or series of hills or cones. Halemaumau is somewhat similar, though it still has a bowl or depression in it. Out of both localities constantly rise dense clouds of smoke and steam, and the whole appearance indicates an outbreak somewhere soon, though the only fire now seen in them is in cracks and cones.

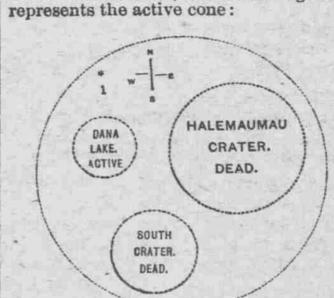
" DANA LAKE," The new and active crater, is located west of the above two extinct craters, from which it is separated by immense walls, perhaps two or three hundred feet thick and high. In shape it is rather oblong, 300 by 360 feet. This is filled nearly to the brim with liquid lava, sometimes covered with a black film, but when in action brilliantly red and incandescant. Its appearance is that of a huge pot boiling, and at times, like a fountain of blood, the red mass moving slowly off to the south and west and pouring through a hidden aperture, like water over a dam. The jets thrown up by the fountains, of which there are at times one, two, three or more, probably rise to thirty or forty feet, falling in semi-congealed lumps like clots of blood on the surface of the pool, or on the rim surrounding the crater. It gives to the spectator the idea of a huge whale imprisoned in the pool, trying in vain to escape, lashing the molten liquid with his tail and spouting fiery blood from his nostrils. Yet visitors can go to the very edge and stand so near the surface of the liquid lava as to touch it with a pole. The lava in the pool rises and falls at times several feet, seldom reaching the top of the rim surrounding it. During the time I was there, it was in constant, and at times in furious ebullition, scattering jets in every direction, some drops falling within a few feet of me.

MADAME PELE APPEARS FROM A CONE. Leaving the lake, I proceeded to a cone, located lower down, and some 200 yards from it, which was in violent action. Three jets were issuing from it, one of which rose 25 or 30 feet, and so terrific were its demonstrations and noises, that it seemed as though it would

Mr. Maby, the manager, that judging from the intense activity of the lake and the cone, I thought there might be an eruption soon. At 12 o'clock the same night, this cone burst out with a fiery stream of lava, which ran toward and along the north wall of the crater in the direction of the hotel, nearly a mile in length. It presented a most fascinating spectacle, lighting up the surrounding country as bright as day. This was on the night of the 11th, and the eruption continued to the time I left the hotel on

the 13th. Mr. Maby informed me that these cones, of which there are a number scattered around the crater, occasionally, break out with no warning, forming lava streams from a few feet to a mile in length. Generally, they are of short duration, but while in action afford very pretty miniatures of Vesuvius. On a previous visit, some years ago, one of my companions, more daring than the rest of the party, ventured to climb the slope of an active cone, to light his cigar, but was met with a shower of lava spray thrown from the aperture, which however did no harm to him, more than a mild scare and a scorehing of his hat

In all my visits to the Volcano, I have never seen more dense volumes of smoke and steam than on the 10th and 11th of December, covering as they did the entire crater with a black cloud, and apparently threatening a storm of some kind. This was before the eruption above referred to, and probably was a premonition of it. The smoke rose chiefly from Halemaumau, South and Dana craters, but extended to every part of the mound on which they are located, covering perhaps an area of 2,000 feet from north to south and east to west. It seems to be a sure indication of increasing activity of the subterranean fires, which may result in the re-opening of the lake of Halemaumau, or perhaps, South Lake. The position of the three craters named is all within the above area—of 2,000 feet, and they occupy about the following relation to each other, represented with rules and types, in the absence of an engraver's tools. The star (*) above the figure 1.



Of course the activity of Dana Lake and the cones varies from day to day, but those who go to the crater and remain two or three days, will generally have an opportunity to see it in action beiling and spouting as it often does. Halemaumau and the South Lake were of late years, prior to the subsidence, much larger in extent than the present active one, but I have seen the former when it was only 300 feet across, or as small as Dana Lake now is. The present condition of Kilauea is therefore as attractive as at some former periods, though not quite as accessible, as it requires at least a half mile longer walk to reach the edge of the active lake. My own belief is that within a few weeks or months, a molten lake will form in Halemaumau, and that it will as of old become the center of attraction to visitors. STEAM THE TRUE SOURCE OF VOLCANIC

Reference has been made to the dense smoke and steam rising from the crater, and I have on this visit been particular to watch the clouds of each as they floated off in the air. They are easily distinguished—the smoke rising in dense masses and forming a cloud which, when the wind is not very strong, hovers, like a huge umbrella, over the crater. When the wind is high it circles off in a lengthened cloud stretching along the shore and around the southern point of Hawaii. The vapor clouds, on the other hand, however dense they may be when issuing from the crater, rapidly disappear as they rise to a more moderate elevation. To a practised eye they are readily distinguishable—one disappearing for a short time, the other floating away for twenty or thirty miles. The presence of steam in the Volcano confirms my belief gathered by witnessing five of the largest eruptions on Hawaii, and by a seven years' residence within sight of Kilauea that steam or the vapor of fresh or salt water, is the principal agent of Volcanic action on Hawaii; and if it be so here, it must be so in every other

· POWER.

Volcano. White at the hotel I sketched the eruption of the cone and its lava stream, and also the appearance of Dana Lake, with such crude materials as a tourist's pocket could furnish, and left a copy of it in Mr. Maby's sketch-book, where also will be found some by Tavernier and other less noted artists; and I would suggest to travelers to leave sketches of what they see, to serve as a historical record of the changes which Kilauea is constantly undergoing. Were it not for Ellis' sketch taken in 1823 and that by the artist of the American Exploring Expedition in 1840, we could have no idea of its appearance then, nor realize the almost incredible changes of sixtyfive years, which are transforming this remarkable and accessible active Volcano from the deep pit it then was to the mound or mountain in which it is slowly explode and scatter itself in every direction. On returning to the hotel at 8 Volcano in the world furnishes so good 164-3m o'clock in the evening, I remarked to opportunities to study the origin, causes difficulties.

and effects of Volcanic action as Kilauea.

EARTHQUAKE WAVES.

During the recent earthquake in New Zealand, it was stated by observers that the ground was seen to rise and fall at least a foot, which was stoutly contra-dicted in a public lecture by a scientist, who declared that such an undulating movement of the ground would destroy every dwelling in Christchurch. This movement is called an earthquake wave, and usually follows the shake, being evidently caused by it, and very closely re-sembles the swell of the ocean in a calm. Once, while living in Kau, I had a good opportunity of witnessing one, while standing in an open field, where the waves which followed the shock, traveled over the surface as distinctly as I have seen the ocean swells follow each other, and the distance between the ridges and hollows could not have been less than one foot, each following the other in rapid succession for one or two minutes after the shock. Mr. Charles N. Spencer and Mr. W.F. Pogue, who have both resided in Kau, Hawaii, confirm my observations. The latter also states that water in his cemented cistern was splashed fifteen or twenty inches upon the side walls, above the usual level of the water, though the cistern sustained no injury. At the same time, half-filled pans standing on shelves were emptied of all the contents without being thrown off the shelves. This would indicate that earthquake waves do not possess the destructive force of the shock which precedes and causes them.

In looking over the three volumes of Records which are now in the hotel, I regret to find that many of the old sketches of the crater and of the roadside scenes and scenery have been taken from them-whole pages having been removed in some instances, and mutilated in others. Pictures drawn in the book about the time of Captain Dutton's several visits there in 1881 or 2 have been taken by parties who deserve to be branded as thieves. This has compelled the resident manager to provide a special sketch book which is kept under lock and ker. The three volumes referred to, date back to 1856; but there were two volumes filled prior to that, which were the property of Mr. Benj. Pitman, at that time its proprietor. I understand that these old volumes are now in the United States, and if they are to be found, they should be solicited by the Hawaiian Government, to be placed in the Honolulu Library. They can be of very little use to the present possessors, while here they would be of permanent and increas-

ing value for reference.

Mr. Maby has recently provided an album, which he proposes to fill with photograph views, (6 by 8 inches) of which he already has a few fine ones. taken by Mr. Williams and Mr. Severin. There have been over a hundred different photos taken of Kilauea during the past forty years, and it is to be hoped that copies of some of the older as well as of more recent ones may be furnished for this album. One of the finest now in existence was taken by Dr. Stangenwald in 1851, and when I saw it in Hilo, five years ago, it apparently was in as good state of preservation as when taken. It possesses value as showing the appearance of the crater at that time. Another suggestion may not be out of place in this connection—that the Wilder Steamship Company, who are at present proprietors of the hotel and crater, furnish their resident manager with apparatus and material to take views whenever extraordinary outbreaks occur at the crater or on Mauna Loa. Usually these last but a few days, and are entirely lost, unless some provision is made to secure and preserve them as records of public

I cannot close this sketch without reference to the kind attentions of Mr. and Mrs. Maby of the Volcano hotel to travelers visiting the place. This is attested by numerous entries in the record book and by my own experience. It is a resort where persons seeking rest for a week or two will not only find every convenience of home, but a cool bracing climate, with the thermometer ranging from 50 deg. to 75 deg., which cannot fail to invigorate one's constitution quite as much as a sea voyage to San Francisco. H. M. WHITNEY.

The Panama Canal.

The New York correspondent of the Panama Star and Herald has information that H. B. Slaven has made another contract with the Canal Company to cut to Matachin. It will cover two years' work, and the amount will reach \$25,000 .-000. Up to August 1, 1888, the American Contracting and Dredging Company has paid handsome dividends out of the \$12,000,000 it has received for work done on the canal. The Star and Herald hails this new contract as signifying increased push in canal work, and consequently in-creased business on the Isthmus.

The Monroe Dectrine.

The Guatemala Star, referring to Venezuela's appeal for American mediation against English encroachments, says:

The United States certainly ought to do something in the defence of the rights of the sister Republic, that are being so cooly and flagrantly violated, but we fear nevertheless that in face of England's manifest determination to keep what she has taken, Venezuela will be allowed to look elsewhere for aid—the letter and spirit of the Monroe Doctrine

to the contrary notwithstanding. The Canadian Pacific railroad is thinking of building a branch line to Detroit. connecting with the Wabash system, and thus gaining an entrance to Chicago. The line is reported to be in financial