

round boulders of lava are so regularly placed, and the sand is sowed in around them, as to give the appearance of a causeway, while in others, the lava seems to have run like a stream. We commenced the ascent of the great peak at nine o'clock, on the N. E. side, over a ridge of tremendously rugged lava, four hundred and seventy feet high, preferring this course to the very steep ascent of the south side, which consists entirely of lava, ashes, and scorice, and we gained the summit soon after ten. Though exhausted with fatigue before leaving the table land, and much tried by the increasing cold, yet such was my ardent desire to reach the top, that the last portion of the way seemed the easiest. This is the loftiest of the chimneys: a lengthened ridge of two hundred and twenty one yards two feet running nearly straight N. W. To the north, four feet below the extreme summit of the peak, the barometer was instantly suspended, the cistern being exactly below, and when the mercury had acquired the temperature of the circumambient air, the following register was entered at 11 h. 20 m.; bar. 18.362 in.; air 33°; hydr. 0" 5. At 12 o'clock the horizon displayed some snowy clouds; until this period the view was sublime to the greatest degree, but now every appearance of a mountain storm come on. The whole of the low S. E. point of the island was throughout the day covered like a vast plain of snow with clouds. The same thermometer laid on the bare lava, and exposed to the wind at an angle of 27° expressed at first 37° and afterwards at 12 o'clock 41°, though when held in the hand, exposed to the sun, it did not rise at all. It may well be conjectured that such an immense mass of heating material, combined with the influence of internal fire, and taken in connexion with the insular position of Mouna Kuah, surrounded by an immense ocean of water, will have the effect of raising the snow line considerably: except on the northern declivity, or where sheltered by large blocks of lava, there was no snow to be seen: even on the top of the cairn where the barometer was fixed, there were only a few handfuls. One thing struck me as curious, the apparent non-diminution of sound, not as respects the rapidity of its transmission, which is, of course, subject to a well known law. Certain it is, that on mountains of inferior elevation, whose summits are clothed with perpetual snow and ice, we find it needful to roar into one another's ears, and the firing of a gun, at a short distance, does not disturb the timid antelope on the high snowy peaks of N. W. America. Snow is doubtless a non-con-