

cended the first ledge of the crater, and proceeded for three hundred yards over a level space, composed of ashes, scorïæ, and large stones that have been ejected from the mouth of the volcano. The stream formerly described is the only fluid lava here. Hence to arrive at the black ledge, is another descent of about two hundred and forty feet, more difficult to be passed than any other, and this brings the traveller to the brink of the black ledge, where a scene of all that is terrific to behold presents itself before his eyes. He sees a vast basin, recently in a state of igneous fusion, now, in cooling, broken up, somewhat in the manner of the great American lades, when the ice gives way, in some places level in large sheets, elsewhere rolled in tremendous masses, and twisted into a thousand different shapes, sometimes even being filamentose, like fine hair, but all displaying the mighty agency still existing in this immense depository of subterraneous fire. A most uncomfortable feeling is experienced when then traveller becomes aware that the lava is hollow and faithless beneath his tread. Of all sensations in nature, that produced by earthquakes or volcanic agency, is the most alarming: the strongest nerves are unstrung, and the most courageous mind feels weakened and unhinged, when exposed to either. How insignificant are the operations of man's hands, taken in their vastest extent, when compared with the magnitude of the works of God!"

"On the black ledge, the thermometer held in the hand, five feet from the ground, indicated a temperature of 89°, and when laid on the Lava, in the sun's rays, 115°, and 112° in the shade; on the bank of the burning Lake, at the south end, it rose to 124°. Over some fissures in the Lava, where the smoke was of a greyish rather than a blue tinge, the thermometer stood at 94°. I remained for upwards of two hours in the crater, suffering all the time an intense headache, with my pulse strong and irregular, and my tongue parched, together with other symptoms of fever. The intense heat and sulphurous nature of the ground had corroded my shoes so much, that they barely protected my feet from the hot lava. I ascended out of the crater at the south-west or small end, over two steep banks of scorïæ, and two ledges of rock, and returned by the west side to my tent, having thus walked quite round this mighty crater."

"Saturday, Jan. 25th. I slept soundly until 2, a.m., when, as not a speck could be seen on the horizon, and the moon was unusually bright, I rose with the intention of making some lunar