

sprung up from the east, and drove the steam which had been going straight up all day into our camp. This gave us a little employment in moving more to the southward, but damped all our things which we had hung out to dry on the tent poles. However, we should probably have all to-morrow and all the next day to dry our things, and to wash and dry them all over again.

By way of amusement that evening we made the Strokr go off. The method was as follows:—Each man collected a quantity of turf and rubbish in heaps close to the edge of the hole. There is no basin to this spring, but merely a shaft, down which you can look and see the dirty water seething like beer in a vat. At a given signal we all pushed our heaps of stuff in, and effectually stopped up the passage for a while. A tremendous disturbance evidently took place inside. The Strokr became enraged, and boiled and seethed angrily in his pipe. We watched for the water to rise with great anxiety, craning over the edge of the shaft and looking down. Suddenly it did appear to rise, and away we ran in all directions, but it was a false alarm. With cautious steps we re-approached the monster. He appeared already pacified, and we began to walk away disappointed, but it was the lull preceding the storm. Before we were all of us beyond its reach, a column of dirty boiling water, full of rubbish we had thrown in, rose heavenward with a rushing noise, and one of our party, a Highland gentleman, who dabbled in the 'ologies, got a quickener on his heels from the scalding water. The debris left by the water, which receded in a very few minutes, served again as a second dose on the following day. Having purchased a sheep from the natives, we proceeded to boil it in quarters in "the kitchen;" consequently cold boiled mutton was the staple of our subsistence for the next three days.

The shades of night again closed in upon us, and everything around partook more and more of the unearthly. The subterraneous knockings continued at intervals, but we heeded them no longer. I found myself very loth to get up on the following morning, but the hearty congratulations of my friends roused me completely. It was my birthday, the first I had ever spent away from England. After a

delicious bathe in the river, we attacked the cold mutton for breakfast; and afterwards while washing up "the things," a violent knocking began, and the water in the basin of the Great Geyser was unusually agitated, and waves commenced flowing in gradually increasing circles from the centre. "She's going off" was the cry, and up we started. I seized my drawing-book, another his thermometer, a third his geological hammer, and away we ran to windward of the monster. The underground knocking continued but for a few minutes, and no further change took place in the water, so that its temperature was tested by the thermometer, and found to be considerably above boiling point. At last a dome of water rose in the centre of the basin about a foot high, and burst, followed immediately by a rapid succession of others, increasing in size and height till they arrived at the elevation of ten or twelve feet, and then with a roar the whole mass shot up some eighty or ninety feet into the air; and so constantly were the jets thrown up from the pipe that the *tout ensemble* was as if a column of scalding water about twelve feet in diameter at the base, gradually tapering upwards, stood before us. The wind was blowing gently from the east, carrying off the masses of steam in graceful curls towards the hill. The natives seemed to take it pretty coolly, but I must confess we who had waited so long for this grand display, got very much excited. We gave vent to our feelings in a cheer, *more Britannorum*. The eruption must have lasted about seven minutes. Its termination was very picturesque. The jets became gradually less frequent and as they rose spasmodically the water was thrown about in fantastic shapes, the whole resembling for a few moments the snow-laden boughs of a spruce in midwinter. Suddenly, the motive power, whatever it was, ceased, and the whole mass that remained, together with the water in the basin, receded with a loud gurgling sound down the pipe. The silence immediately succeeding this uproar was for a moment unbroken as we looked at each other in semi-bewilderment; then as if by common consent we ran up to and entered the basin. It was as dry as a bone, and quite hot. We broke off bits of the rock, made measurements, plumbed the pipe with