

the sea, though the sky was remarkably clear. It is a horizon of itself, and about seven miles in diameter. I ought, ere now, to have said that the Bird Catcher's knowledge of the volcanoes did not rise above the woody region, and now he and my two other followers were unable to proceed further. Leaving these three behind, and accompanied by only Calipso, I went on about two miles and a half, when the great terminal volcano or cone of Mouna Roa burst on my view : all my attempts to scale the black ledge here were ineffectual, as the fissures in the lava were so much concealed, though not protected, by the snow, that the undertaking was accompanied with great danger. Most reluctantly was I obliged to return, without being able to measure accurately its extraordinary depth. From this point I walked along upon the brink of the high ledge, along the east side, to the hump, so to speak, of the mountain, the point, which, as seen from Mouna Kuah, appears the highest. As I stood on the brink of the ledge the wind whirled up from the cavity with such furious violence, that I could scarcely keep my footing within twenty paces of it. The circumference of the black ledge of the nearly circular crater, described as nearly as my circumstances would allow me to ascertain, is six miles and a quarter. The ancient crater has an extent of about 24 miles. The depth of the ledge from the highest part (perpendicular station on the east side) by an accurate measurement with a line and plummet, is twelve hundred and seventy feet. It appears to have filled up considerably all round ; that part to the north of the circle seeming to have, at no very remote period, undergone the most violent activity, not by boiling and overflowing, nor by discharging under ground, but by throwing out stones of immense size to the distance of miles around its opening, together with ashes and sand. Terrible chasms exist at the bottom, appearing, in some places, as if the mountain had been rent to its very roots ; no termination can be seen to their depth, even when the eye is aided with a good glass, and the sky is clear of smoke, and the sun shining brightly. Fearful indeed must the spectacle have been, when this volcano was in a state of activity. The part to the south of the circle, where the outlet of lava has evidently been, must have enjoyed a long period of repose. Were it not for the dykes on the west end, which shew the extent of the ancient cauldron, and the direction of the lava, together with its proximity to the existing volcano, there is little to arrest the eye of the naturalist over the greater portion of