

As the mouth of the cone contracts the jet is thrown higher and higher, and the spray falling all around, covers the lava platform around with congealed drops of a lava rain, as it were. Each of these drops forms, like the spray from the waves, a Pele's hair.*

Over one of the ranges of low cliffs in the crater, a cascade of lava had poured, and cooling and setting as it flowed, had been drawn out into long ropes and rounded ridges, which were twisted one over another, and formed a curiously gnarled and contorted mass. Everywhere were complex ripple marks sharply moulded in the rapidly setting melted mass.

Bubbles were to be met with all over the lava surfaces, many of them large, 4 or 5 inches across, blown in the surface of the hot lava by the escaping gases, and now set and covered by convex films of thin transparent lava like thin-blown green bottle-glass.

The following is an account of a great eruption of Mauna Loa, which has occurred since our visit, taken from the *Times* of April 3rd, 1877. "Hawaiian Volcanoes.—The 'Honolulu Gazette' states that in the last 90 years there have been 10 great eruptions on Hawaii. That of February, 1877, is the eleventh of the series. On the 14th of that month Mauna Loa, which is nearly 14,000 feet high, sent out an immense volume of smoke that rose to a height of 16,000 feet, and spread out, darkening the sky, over an area of 100 square miles, and then a stream of lava started down the mountain sides, but the source dried up at the end of six hours, and the eruption ceased. The sight was grand while it lasted. Mr. C. J. Lyons writes from Wainea that the columns of illuminated smoke shot up with such velocity that the first 5,000 feet were passed inside of a minute. Ten days afterwards, early on the 24th of February, there was a submarine eruption 50 miles from Mauna Loa, near Kealakeakua Bay. Flames were thrown up from the sea, and numerous jets of steam arose on a line about a mile long, where the sea was from 150 feet to 400 feet deep, as if the crust of rock under the sea had been broken in a fissure to let the internal fires out. In many places lumps of lava were thrown up, and it was so porous, somewhat like pumice-stone, that while hot it floated away, but sank as soon as it became cold and saturated with water. Another rupture, doubtless a continuation of the submarine fissure, was traced inland from the shore nearly three miles, varying in width from a few inches to 3 feet. In some places the water was seen

* Mr. H. C. Sorby, F.R.S., had come to the conclusion from the observations on furnace slag that Pele's hair was probably formed in this manner with globules attached. "Nature" Vol. XVI