

STREAMS OF FIERY LAVA.

Continued and fiery eruption of Mauna Loa—Volcanic floods pouring down upon Hilo—One of the greatest eruptions on record.

Advices from Honolulu have been received to July 17, per steamer Australia at San Francisco. The most exciting event when the steamer left Honolulu was the new outbreak of Mauna Loa, which threatened to cause great destruction. The sheriff of Hawaii writes from Hilo as follows: "I fear that we are on the brink of a great calamity. The lava stream has at last broken out of the woods immediately above Valakia and the fishpond, and that portion of Hilo, including the harbor, cannot escape except by a miracle. Last Saturday gradually increasing action noticed, and on Saturday night and Sunday the lava broke out of the woods, and getting into a small water-course came rushing down in the direction of Kukuan and Kalipolpo at great speed. Monday I visited the scene of the flow and it was a truly terrific sight to see streams of lava almost as liquid as water rushing down the beds of streams, pouring over fertile land and carrying destruction with it everywhere. The roar of burning grass and ferns, the explosions and concussions, were fearful. While we were watching it—about three hours—the stream progressed some 400 feet. It cannot be more than about two miles from the sea in a direct line. A continuous stream of people are coming and going. It seems almost incredible that a lava stream is so near us, but it is, alas, too true. One part of the town seems safe, but if the stream gets into the bay it will doubtless destroy it, and all the people in that vicinity will be ruined and homeless. This morning (June 30) the report from the flow is that action at the lower end is somewhat abated, but further up it continues as violent as ever. It is probably only a temporary lull."

Another correspondent describes the outbreak as follows: "About June 22 the old mountain was observed to be more than usually active, the whole summit crevasse pouring forth immense volumes of smoke. By Friday noon the three southern arms had all joined into one, and rushing into a deep but narrow gulch forced its way down the gulch in a rapid flow. By Saturday night it had run a mile. The flow was on an average of seventy-five feet wide and from ten to thirty feet in depth, as it filled the gulch up level with its banks. The sight was grand. The whole frontage was one mass of liquid lava carrying on its surface huge cakes of partly cooled lava. Soon after we had reached it the flow reached a deep hole, some ten or fifteen feet in depth, with perpendicular sides. The sight, as it poured over the fall in two cascades, was magnificent. The flow was then moving at the rate of about seventy-five feet an hour. If it goes through Kukuan, probably all the lower or front part of the town will fall a prey to Mme. Pele."

The Hawaiian Gazette of July 6, says: "The past week has been one of great excitement in Hilo in consequence of the renewed activity in the volcanic fires on Mauna Loa. One arm of the fiery stream has pushed itself into the Kukuan gulch, and is within three miles of the Village of Hilo. All Hilo may be said to have visited the flow during the last few days. Men, women and children, some on foot and some on horseback, have made the pilgrimage. As seen on Wednesday, June 29, it presented a view never to be forgotten. A mile above the lower end of the stream the lava was flowing in a liquid, living torrent, some thirty feet wide along its course, consuming everything in its way. From this point about half a mile of the seething, surging torrent could be seen. The belt covered with lava was some 600 feet, all hot and liable at any moment to break out into renewed activity. At night the scene was awfully grand beyond description."

The Rev. Titus Coan writes from Hilo, under date of June 28: "The northern wing of the line is less than six miles from us, and the southeastern is less than six miles distant, while the centre of the line appears more sanguinary. From the southeast wing the seething fusion has fallen into a rough water channel twenty to thirty feet wide, which comes down from the main bed of the flow, almost directly to Hilo. We found two streams of liquid lava coming down in rocky channels, which are sometimes filled with roaring waters but nearly dry at this time. These two gulches are too small to hold the seething fusion, and the fiery flood overruns the banks and spreads out on either side. The united width of these streams may vary from fifty to 200 feet."

Following is part of a graphic letter just received from Bishop Coan, of Hawaii, by his son, Mr. Titus Munson Coan, of this city: "Hilo, Hawaii, June 30, 1881.—Hilo is in trouble. The fiery line burns at night, four or five miles in length, only five miles from us, and its approach, though slow, are persistent. But we are now in immediate danger. From the main column of lava in our rear a stream of molten fire has come down directly from Kukuan, following the gorge of a water channel, and this stream is only about two and a quarter miles from our village. It is heading for Kukuan, and it will, if not stayed, strike the Volcano street about one-fourth of a mile from Church street, on which we live, falling into the head waters of the Waialama, and entering our harbor about midway of the beach. This stream is fearfully active. It is about fifty to one hundred feet wide where it is confined in the gulches, but it is sure to spread indefinitely where there is space. By night the imaginary glow is fearful, like a flaming banner high in the heavens. Some days it progresses towards us one-eighth to half a mile a day. From the town you can walk up to the lava stream in forty minutes, and return in thirty. Thousands of people visit it, sometimes a hundred in a day. I have been up to it and dipped up the fusion. As it comes down the rocky bed of the ravine the roar of the lava is like that of the Waikua river in flood, but a heavier and deeper sound; it is the base, and the deeper the sound. Sometimes the sound is

like distant thunder. Its explosions and detonations are rapid and startling. I counted ten in a minute. In some places it has overflowed its banks and spread out 200 or 300 feet laterally, burning the jungle and cutting down the trees.

We now expect the lava stream to enter Hilo Harbor in a few days. What damage it will do there remains to be seen. Should it spread out when it reaches the low and level parts of Kukuan and Punahawai, joining Punahoa, where we live, it may burn many houses and cut our village in two, but Hilo will not be entirely destroyed unless the vast masses of fire that are accumulating upon the mountain slope should come down upon us. We look to the Lord for help in these days of trial. TITUS COAN.

The South.

Every day evidence is developed tending to show that the South is just now entering upon a career of prosperity, the like of which was never dreamed of before by the most sanguine friend of southern progress. And why should not the south prosper? Its soil is excellent, its climate mild, productions varied, and its position in relation to the commerce of the world in every way advantageous. That new channels of commerce would be opened up, every thoughtful man has long ago conceded. And now these channels of trade are being rapidly developed. In this grand onward march Memphis should see its opportunity, and proceed at once on the road to greatness. Why should the southern states look toward New York? On the Atlantic seaboard, hundreds of miles nearer to all the chief southern centres of trade, there are ports which offer superior advantages over any that can legitimately be claimed for any of the Atlantic cities north of Chesapeake bay. We may mention in this connection, Norfolk, and a rising city—the future greatemporium of the south—Newport News. This splendidly located port is situated at the junction of the James river with Hampton roads. This place—unless all indications fail—is destined to become the chief American seaport on the south Atlantic coast of the United States. In natural advantages it can be excelled by none in the United States. Just now much interest centres in the movements in progress which promise ere long to make Newport News for the southern half of the Union what New York has long been regarded—the chief Atlantic seaport, the principal commercial gateway, if the term be allowable, through which a vast trade must pass. The grand railroad schemes now being developed under the sagacious direction of Mr. Huntington promise to make that city the center of a system of railroads ramifying the entire southern states, and extending west, terminating on the Pacific shore. Of this magnificent system of trans-continental transportation lines, the Memphis, Paducah and Northern railway will form an important link. Already, Mr. Huntington has secured this valuable property, and now the work of completing a continuous line of railway from Memphis to Newport News, by way of the Chesapeake and Ohio railway, is a task of easy accomplishment. Only a few short gaps in required to be completed to make the line a continuous one from Memphis to the Atlantic. In the west the same company have many miles of trackway already laid down, and to complete an inter-oceanic line between Newport News and the ports of the Pacific coast would not be a very great undertaking. This system, completed in its entirety, takes in the link between Memphis and Jefferson, Texas, which so shrewd an operator as Mr. Huntington will not be long to perceive, and of course with so favorable a situation on a great trunk line of railways running east and west, and the Mississippi river flowing to the southward, ought certainly to profit by such an immense expansion. And she will profit by these movements among the people.

Nearly a Miracle.

E. Asenith, Hall, Binghamton, N. Y., writes: "I suffered for several months with a dull pain through left lung and shoulders. I lost my spirits, appetite and color, and could with difficulty keep up all day. My mother procured some Bicknell's Blood Bitters; I took them as directed, and have felt no pain since first week after using them, and am now quite well." Price \$1.00, trial five 10 cents.

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Very often we see a person suffering from some form of kidney complaint and gradually dying by inches. This no longer need be so for Electric Bitters will positively cure Bright's disease, or any disease of the kidneys or urinary organs. They are especially adapted to this class of diseases, acting directly on the Stomach and Liver at the same time, and will speedily cure where every other remedy has failed. Sold at fifty cents a bottle, by Ish & McMahon.

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The "Liver"

Dr. Bliss and his contemporaries who have been trying to make the president believe that if the bullet struck his liver he will have a close shave of it, know very little about that organ, or else they have entered into a conspiracy to scare him to death. Right here in our state of Michigan one can collect a cart-load of affidavits that a man's liver is about the most worthless organ in the human body, and down in Indiana they won't have 'em at all if they can help it. Our correspondent at Lansing writes: "Please let the president know through your columns that in 1872, a boy fired a big agate marble through my liver from a toy cannon. I stuffed up the hole with an old hat and after the third day I could attend to business as well as ever. The injury rather blunted my taste for New Orleans molasses, but aside from that I have noticed no serious effects."

Our correspondent at Mackinac sends down the following: "The president need not be alarmed about his liver. Last fall my brother got in the way of a blast at a Lake Superior mine, and a stone weighing a pound was driven clear through him, carrying portions of his liver over 200 feet. The doctors pronounced him a dead man, but in four weeks he was able to play base ball, and has never had even a headache since. I enclose you the stone which knocked his liver out as proof of my statements."

Our correspondent at St. Joseph writes: "In June, last year, I had a colored man named John Baker in my employ. While driving a mowing-machine he fell to the ground and was badly cut up. Among other wounds he had his liver cut sick in two, and a council of seven doctors decided that he must die within two hours. He is now a well, healthy man, chewing the strongest kind of plug tobacco, and drinking whiskey which kills ordinary men stone dead at thirty-six rods." Our correspondent at Grand Haven says he knows an Indian who was ripped open with a buzz-saw and his liver hung upon a beam forty feet away. The doctors sewed him up in such a hurry that the lost organ was forgotten, but the red man has suffered no inconvenience whatever. On the contrary, he has never been in such spirits. He can drink twice

as much whiskey without getting tangled; it is much easier for him to swear; he does not perspire as much; he is cured of the habit of snoring; his coat fits better in the back; dried apples have improved in taste, and he would not have the old thing back again under any circumstances. The entire sash, door and blind shop in which the accident occurred has been forwarded to substantiate the assertions, and the medical fraternity are invited to call and have their doubts removed.

A CROP OF OIL.

A Little While Blacksmith Strikes it Rich While Spading in His Garden.

Cincinnati Gazette. A month or so ago Sebastian Haehn, a blacksmith living in Mechanic street was spading in his garden after heavy rain. As he turned up the earth he noticed that little pools of crude petroleum were formed in the cavities made by his spade. He dug a pit four feet deep. It filled up with oil to such an extent that he dipped out five barrels full. The oil was of excellent quality, and he sold it to the oil refinery. Week before last he dug another well in his garden. It responded with a yield of two barrels an hour. The well attracted great attention. It produced eighty barrels and then ceased to flow. The excitement over the novel oil territory died out soon afterward.

On Monday last the news spread through the city that Haehn had opened another well in his garden, and that it was yielding at the rate of thirty-six barrels a day. Hundreds flocked to the scene of the new oil operations. With a large tin hand-pump the owner was taking out of the hole two barrels of oil an hour. His previous well had also started again. From that one of his sons was taking oil at the rate of twenty barrels a day. Immediately following this strike of the lucky blacksmith a great demand for leases of adjoining gardens arose. The right to dig on four feet of a man's garden became worth \$5 bonus and a quarter of the oil. On Tuesday night Theodore Avery, who has a coal yard adjoining Haehn's garden, put down a well. At the depth of four feet he struck oil. The yield was one barrel an hour. He has put down four more wells since. The wells were yesterday yielding eight barrels an hour. Several more wells were struck in this territory, one of which is pumping twenty-five barrels a day. Two five barrel wells are of excellent green oil. The other parties struck oil of red hue, and the appearance of being mixed.

Haehn's garden is now yielding 100 barrels a day. He expects to increase it to 200. The oil is worth at the refineries \$1.10 a barrel. The price of one barrel defrays all the expense of putting down a well. There are many theories in regard to this unheard of presence of petroleum in large quantities so near the surface. One is that the oil is the leakage of the tank and pipe lines; another is that this deposit has been forced up from the true petroleum sand stratum by some unknown agency, and caught and retained in the stratum where it now lies.

Gaslight and Electricity.

N. Y. Evening News. The Edison and the other electricians have so often shouted "wolf" at the door of the gas companies that those comfortable corporations no longer are alarmed by the outcry. When it was first announced that the electric spark was about to give us a brighter, cleaner, safer and perhaps cheaper light than the one to which we are accustomed there was something like a panic in gas stocks. Holders who had been drawing large dividends for many years made haste to sell, but the more investors clung to their shares and added to them until the event amply justified the proceeding. Under the influence of repeated failures in the introduction of the new illuminating agent the gas stocks recovered and again command high prices.

What is more to the purpose, the manufacturers maintain the charge for gas at a high figure. It might have been supposed that even the remote prospect of the entry of a formidable rival upon the field would induce the companies to prepare for a sharp competition by making friends of their customers and swelling their number through the instrumentality of reasonably low rates; but this expectation has been disappointed. The companies, on the contrary, have incurred the enmity of their customers and even driven many of them away by keeping up the prices and by continuing to connive at the rascally eccentricities of that familiar household fiend, the meter, which, according to common report, registers the more gas the fewer burners are lighted, and sometimes revenges itself upon people who shut up their houses in summer by keeping a strict account of gas for the consumption of a winter of long nights. Various theories are suggested in explanation of the course of the manufacturers. One is that the long delay in furnishing a cheap light for ordinary domestic use has encouraged on their part in respect to the electric experiment an incredulity similar to the scepticism of Betsey Prig concerning the mythical Mrs. Harris, and that they are ready to take the chances on a successful rivalry for many years to come. Another theory is that, while they really believe that the new light may at any time become a practical success, they purpose to make lay while the sun shines, or while the gas burns, to avail themselves of the present popular necessity to secure as plentiful a harvest as may be in order to fortify themselves for a lively competition at reduced rates when that is at last inevitable.

Whatever the explanation may be the charges are maintained. New York pays two and two-thirds times as much for gas as London, two and a half times as much as Ghent, twice as much as Amsterdam, Berlin or Brussels, and half as much as Paris, Lyons or Marseilles. That the increase in this country is not warranted by the greater cost of material is shown by the fact that while coal sells for five dollars a ton in London and four dollars in Philadelphia the

price of gas in the last named city is three times what it is in the other. Of course, if there was as free competition in making and selling gas as there is in the bread and meat traffic, for instance, the extravagant rates could not be sustained. This question is akin to that of the railroads and other kinds of business which by the nature and circumstances of the case are to a greater or less degree monopolies. The exclusive privileges of the corporations enable them not only to fix their own rates but also to impose vexatious conditions which the customer would not submit to if he had a choice in the matter. So far as the gas companies are concerned he has often forced a choice, and, at considerable inconvenience to himself, has escaped from annoying exactions by falling back upon kerosene and other oils.

The charges for gas serve one useful purpose as a constant incentive to efforts to bring the electric light into common use. There is no longer any doubt about electricity as a practicable illuminator. The only part of the problem yet to be solved is its production at such a rate as will warrant its general adoption. When that is accomplished the gas companies may be sure that their long-suffering customers will be restrained from abandoning them by no sentimental considerations whatever.

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