

## BAYARD TAYLOR'S DESCRIPTION OF VESUVIUS.

THE LAST ERUPTION OF VESUVIUS.

NAPLES, January 7th, 1868.

A fresh wind came from the sea and lifted the curtain, and we beheld Vesuvius again in full activity. The smoke was blown northward, behind the foremost peak of Monte Somma, leaving the summit of the cone perfectly clear, and the jets of fire thrown up from it were so brilliantly defined against a background of pitch-dark cloud that we could see the falling stones (from our window in Naples) with the naked eye. By the aid of a strong field-glass, the wonderful spectacle was brought so near that all its features could be observed.

The top of the cone resembled a shallow basin with chipped and cracked edges, and the opening of the crater lay behind it, apparently at some depth. Out of it and around it poured a steady glow, from the stream of lava running over the further side and descending toward the Atrio del Cavallo. But at intervals of not more than half a minute, there were thrown up columnar jets of intense flames to a height varying from 100 to 200 feet. Volumes of smoke, dull vermilion at first, but soon fading to a dark ash-color, rolled off the leeward side of those fiery pillars, as they rose and whirled away, broadening into the darkness. What seemed to be pure, solid fire, as it issued from the crater, changed into a thousand scarlet sparks, which turned outward on all sides in a sheaf-like form, and showered down again into and beyond the crater. I could roughly estimate the height of the jet by the time which the stones occupied in falling. Some of them were evidently of enormous size.

Next day the top of the mountain was hooded in a smoke, and for 24 hours my observations were very fragmentary and imperfect. But on the morning of the third the cone was again clear, and I saw two lines of dense white steam rising as from fissures in the side towards Naples. They were not fissures, however, but rivers of lava, which had burst forth from a new crater opened a little below the summit. Their rapid march downward was very apparent; the guides have since said that they reached the base of the great cone of Vesuvius in three hours. The black promontory created by the lava of 1858, then hid the stream from view for a time, and provoking clouds descended upon the mountain. When night came, the molten streams made themselves visible. I can only compare them to forked streaks of lightning caught and held permanently in their place. The color was as intensely transparent and dazzling as that of the jets from the crater. There was a single stream from the outlet, which parted on the shoulder of the cone, descended in two irregular, wavy lines, and met again just before reaching the bottom. On either side of these veins of fire were occasional detached sparkles, where the lava, after having crawled for some distance under the ashes and scoriae, was forced again to the surface. Sometimes a stronger flood from above made these hidden threads visible, and attached them to the main currents, whereupon other and similar fountains would gush up at a little further distance.

Having reached the base of the great cone (a distance of about a mile,) the lava encountered obstacles and marched more slowly. I came upon the bed of 1858, which threw up a great mound in front, now serving as a breakwater, and forcing the stream both to the right and left for some distance before it can find outlets to the lower slopes to the mountain. Late in the evening we saw the fire appear at the top of the deep ravine which opens below the Astronomical Observatory, but it did not seem to advance further. The next evening we could see that it had made considerable progress, and that a branch had gone off to the right, toward Torre del Greco. The left-hand branch, however, was much the stronger, and had become threatening in its aspect. With a glass I could observe the fall of portions of the burning mass down the declivities of the old lava. It seemed that a day or two more of the same progress would bring it to the edge of the cultivated land.

On the evening of the 5th there appeared to be a diminution in the outflow from the crater. The right-hand stream had almost ceased, and nearly the whole body of lava was pressing down the ravine partly filled by the eruption of 1858. The weather up to this time had been so stormy and changeable, that we had little prospects of a remunerative ascent of the mountain. Yesterday we went

to Resina to have a nearer view, and make inquiries of the guides. It was too late for a deliberate trip, though Dr. Bellows set out before we left, and two or three parties of Americans passed us on the return to Naples.

Mounting between gardens of orange and lemon trees, clumps of cactus, glossy carob trees, and vineyards of Lacryma Christi vines, we reached the limit of the cultivated fields in three-quarters of an hour. The entire Bay of Naples, from the Cape of Minerva to Ischia, was constantly in sight below us. The ragged black crests of the lava fields of 1858, which had been in sight since leaving the suburbs of Resina, now gloomed close at hand, and the path, winding around a spur of the mountain, struck at last across the surface.

It was scarcely three-quarters of a mile further to the foot of the great cone, which now rose dark against the sky, pouring from its crater immense volumes of steam, white and lustrous as new silver. The growth of young oaks on the ridge soon terminated, giving place to a dead, waste region of black lava, opening on the left into the Atrio del Cavallo. The bare, red precipices of Monte Somma, once a part of the mountain itself, shone in the sun, but on the right hand all was smoke, confusion and fire. The double stream of lava from the crater was pouring its fluid, incandescent rock into the valley, and the burning mass, constantly pushing from behind, had already entered the ravine we had crossed a little distance below, moving downward over the distorted lava beds of 1858. There was much smoke but little flame; at times a roaring, rattling noise was heard, but I noticed no trembling or oscillation in the earth, either then or later.

At the edge of the old lava—which here took only the shape of loose stones—we left our horses, and went forward on foot. There was a trodden path at first, but it soon disappeared, and our progress over the rolling and sliding heaps, which had the sharp grit of ground glass, was rather painful. We had already passed the lower point of the lava current, and reached it at a point where the large eruption of the previous night had come down. The heat and smoke increased with every step; the rattling noises were continuous, and lines of creeping fire became visible. There appeared to be two streams, both moving in the same manner—that is, only partly flowing upon the surface of the old lava, but burrowing under the loose crust, splitting and upheaving it, and mixing its materials with the new mass. The noise of the flow was thus produced. The fire was silent and irresistible; there was no hiss or sputtering of the molten elements, but the stream lifted and threw off solid masses, even tons in weight, without the least apparent force or check.

I had always imagined a thick, sluggish stream, with a tolerably smooth surface, something like the flow from a smelting furnace—but here were moving mounds, rough and shapeless, the chief power of which lay in their bases, hidden from sight—strange, creeping, mining forces, moving forward with a horrible, pitiless certainty in their manner of locomotion. If the scene was less grand in its features than one would expect, it was at least diabolically impressive. It expressed only destruction, and of the most cold-blooded, deliberate kind.

The main stream had raised a long ridge, some twenty feet in height, apparently cold on the surface, until some squirming movement in advance shook off the crust in scales, and showing fangs and throats of intensest fire. The front of this ridge was constantly hurling huge masses, some of them red-hot, down the gorge. The nearer stream was not more than four feet in height, and allowed us to approach near enough to poke its glowing sides with a stick. All along its edge boys were busy roasting eggs for travelers, or imbedding coins in the fluid lava, which they snatched out of the mass and twisted off, very much as I have seen children manage molasses candy. The heat, even at a hundred yards distance, was uncomfortable, and I could not stand beside the moving lava for more than a few seconds at a time.

We could distinctly see the new crater, just under the summit of the cone. It was not in violent action, and an enterprising person might have climbed to within a short distance of it. I was not strong enough to undertake the ascent, nor did I feel sure that the fatigue would be repaid. Such an amount of steam and smoke issued from the opening, and rose from the lava as it overran the lower rim, that I doubt whether much else could have been seen. I was most interested in observing the man-

ner in which the lava shoved itself forward, and the possibility of its cooling in such irregular forms was now explained. It is not likely that the present flow will reach the lower parts of the mountain, as the old fields over which it must pass will interpose greater obstacles to its movement. The smoke of the eruption, however, finding its way through subterranean crevices, already issues from all parts of these old fields, and, at the present rate of advance, the road to the Hermitage will be cut off in two or three days more.

January 9th.—My glass shows me that the left hand stream of lava has descended considerably since yesterday. The other branch, toward Torre del Greco, has entirely ceased to flow. The flood from the crater is evidently narrower and more languid than heretofore, which would seem to indicate that the eruption has spent its chief force. As we have the mountain in view day and night, I shall watch its aspects with all the more interest, now that I have seen something of its operations.

B. T.

J. G. Megeath, W. D. Thomas, S. D. Megeath.

## MEGEATH &amp; CO.,

COMMISSION AND FORWARDING

MERCHANTS,

CHEYENNE, . . . . D. T.

Receive and Forward Goods to the Territories of COLORADO, UTAH, MONTANA, &c. Charges for Advancing, Storage and Forwarding at reasonable rates.

## REFERENCE:

To the Merchants and Bankers of Omaha, Denver, and Salt Lake City generally.

## MARK FREIGHT

Colorado and New Mexico—Care of Megeath & Co., Cheyenne, via Omaha. And for Utah and Montana—Care of Megeath & Co., End of Track, U. P. R. R.

d94&amp;w11:6m

## ESTRAY.

ONE red COW, 6 years old, hole in left ear, underbit in right ear, illegible brand on right hip. If not claimed in thirty days from this date will be sold.

ELI WHITEAR, Co. Poundkeeper, March 4, '68. Morgan County. s11:2w6:1

## AUDITOR'S REPORT,

For the Quarter ending February 29th, 1868.

To the Hon. the Mayor and Members of the City Council of Salt Lake City.

GENTLEMEN:—

I herewith present you my Quarterly Report of the financial condition of the City for the quarter ending Feb. 29th, 1868, together with the receipts and disbursements during that period.

1867. Dec. 1 Balance in the Treasury \$ 2,738 31

## RECEIPTS DURING THE QUARTER.

On License, Account.....	9,126 65
" City Tax.....	7,857 15
" Liquor Store.....	3,817 52
" Bills Payable.....	2,800 00
" Rent.....	2,493 70
" Land.....	1,000 00
" East Temple Street.....	715 00
" Wash'n Square corral.....	175 00
" Bathing.....	133 62
" Dog Tax.....	85 75
" Cemetery.....	55 75
" Ice House.....	5 00

Total of Receipts \$23,265 14

31,008 45

## DISBURSEMENTS DURING THE QUARTER.

On City Prison account.....	6,040 45
" Distillery Expense.....	4,777 67
" Road and Street.....	3,962 27
" Expense.....	5,326 58
" Police.....	2,333 13
" Orders on the Treasury, 1865.....	1,748 00
" Merchandise.....	687 58
" Bills Payable.....	474 00
" U. S. Liquor.....	365 00
" Orders on the Treasury, 1865.....	200 00
" Cemetery.....	36 00
" Bathing.....	26 04
" Market House.....	8 50

Total of Disbursements, \$25,955 73

1868. March 1 Balance in Treasury.....\$ 5,017 73

I remain, respectfully yours,

ROBERT CAMPBELL,

Auditor of Public Accounts.

Salt Lake City, March 1st, 1868.

## Dr. E. G. WILLIAMS,

PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON,

Is now located in Ogden City. Residence in Green Taylor's stone building, three blocks south of the Titling Office. w2-1m

## TO BE SOLD:

AT THE "FARMER'S NURSERY" APPLE, PLUM, APRICOT, EARLY PEACH, GOOSEBERRY, CURRANT and ROSE TREES.

THOMAS FENTON,

6TH WARD.....SALT LAKE CITY. w5:1m

## For Sale.

BY

ELDREDGE &amp; CLAWSON

AT

EXTREMELY LOW PRICES!

20,000 Pounds NAILS,

20,000 Pounds SUGAR,

30,000 Yards DOMESTICS,

40,000 Yards PRINTS,

Besides a COMPLETE ASSORTMENT of

General Merchandise!

CALL AND SEE US.

WE WANT TO SELL,

And will make it ADVANTAGEOUS to

CASH BUYERS.

d21&amp;w48-1f

## PUBLIC NOTICE.

YEAR 1868.

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WE return our sincere thanks to this People for the liberal Patronage we have received, and in view of the great scarcity of money and the decline in the value of some kinds of Goods east, we have determined to offer our Stock at a heavy Discount for

## CASH!

☞ We will allow a Discount of TEN PER CENT. on all Groceries, except Tea, Sugar, Coffee, Candles and Soap.

☞ A Discount of TEN PER CENT. on all Dry Goods, Clothing and Hardware, except Nails, Horse and Mule Shoes.

☞ A Discount of TWENTY PER CENT. on Hoods, Nubias, and all Goods of this description, including Hats and Caps.

☞ A Discount of from TEN to TWENTY PER CENT. on all kinds of Dishes, Plates, Cups and Saucers, Glassware, Castors, &c., &c.

## ARGUMENT:

THIS we think better for the Customer than Enterprises on the Lottery Plan, these having been tried elsewhere and not found profitable to the investors.

The People know quite well already who sells the Cheapest and Best Goods, and when they get them, knowing them to be cheap, and then get a Discount of from Ten to Twenty per Cent, we think they will come to the conclusion that it is better to have the full benefit of what they spend at once and on the spot, than take ONE Chance in FIFTY of drawing something, some time in the future.

You are not required to purchase "Ten Dollars" worth to entitle you to the Discount, but we will allow it in all cases, whether the purchase be large or small.

This is to give the poor man or poor woman, who cannot get hold of "Ten Dollars," a chance to buy Goods Cheap.

## COME AND TRY IT.

☞ WHY DO WE OFFER THESE TERMS?

Because we are like most of our neighbors wanting money badly.

Ross &amp; Barratt.

d35&amp;w48-1f