

back of Apia ; its flattened top—concave in some views—point out its crater character to the traveller, before he lands on the island.

To reach the crater, we took the path over the mountains leading through the inland village, Siusenga. This village lies at the northern foot of the range, three miles from the sea, and forty feet above tide level. Three miles from Siusenga, we came upon one of the mountain gorges, and followed its right bank for nearly a mile. Its sides were very precipitous, yet like the rest of the mountains, overgrown with forests. The depth could not be under four hundred feet. Thus far, and for the following mile, our ascent was very gradual. The path then became steep, and on account of the mud, quite fatiguing ; were it not for the entwining roots of the trees that were bare along the path, the way, owing to the rain of the preceding night, would have been scarcely passable. A mile carried us beyond these steep declivities. About eight miles from Siusenga we left the main mountain path, and followed a half-beaten track to the southward and eastward ; and going in this direction a mile and a half, we reached the crater and the crater lake Lanu-To'o.

A ridge a hundred feet high surrounds very regularly a circular lake about two thousand feet in diameter. We passed the highest peak of the ridge about two hundred yards before reaching the borders of the lake. The shores were low, and on the northwest side the waters deepened slowly ; but on the opposite side the banks were abrupt, and the declivity of the enclosing ridge less inclined. The greatest depth obtained by soundings was sixty feet.\* A line of soundings across the lake from northwest to southeast gave successively two and a half, four, five, six, seven, nine and a half, nine, nine, nine, eight and a half, six, four and a half, two, fathoms. The surrounding ridge is clothed with the ordinary forest foliage, enhanced in beauty by the tree-fern with its broad star of finely-worked fronds, and the graceful plumes of a large mountain palm. The poets of the island have appreciated the beauty of the place, and allude to the perpetual verdure which adorns the borders of the lake, in the following lines :—

“ Lanu-to'o e le toi'a e lau mea.”

“ Lanu-to'o untouched by withered leaf.”

I observed no streams of lava around the lake. A few fragments of

\* These soundings were taken by Mr. Couthouy, who paddled himself across on two logs lashed together, and used a vine loaded with a stone for a lead.