

1 bowels of the earth had gushed out upon its surface. On arriving at the observatory (which is
2 situated on a high ridge of earth between two enormous streams of (1872) lava), we left our
3 carriage and mounted on horses. Rode along the crest of the ridge for half a mile and then by a
4 rugged trail across the lava stream to the foot of the cone. Here we dismounted. Our regular
5 guide was to remain whilst a guide authorized by the government took charge of us to show us
6 the way up the cone to the crater. The fun of the thing commenced very soon afterward. A
7 number of men are stationed here with sedan chairs to carry up persons that are not able to
8 walk. We did not consider that our party came under this head, and we determined to foot it.
9 The cone is a pile of loose ashes, the surface forming an angle of about 40 degrees on an
10 average, but in some places it was 45, at others a little less than 40. The distance from the base
11 of this cone to the edge of the crater is about half a mile and takes an active climber one hour
12 to ascend to the summit. We started. Two heavy English ladies stopping at the hotel with us
13 were attached to our party. A dozen or more of the noisy herd of practiced climbers started off
14 with us, each offering his services to assist us. We had been provided each with a stout staff, or
15 alpenstock, to aid us in the struggle. The men had straps over their shoulders with a soft loop
16 at the end for tourists to take hold of to aid them in the ascent. We at first refused any
17 assistance, but a few rods satisfied first one, and then another of the party, to lay hold of the
18 strap. And although we had positively refused to have any thing to do with the chairs, I was
19 somewhat vexed to notice that the men were following us persistently with three of the empty
20 chairs. Very soon, one of our English friends declared that she could go no further, and a few
21 minutes persuasion induced her to try one of the chairs. In a very short time, the other English
22 lady concluded to try the second chair. Mrs. Van's face was becoming very red, and she
23 insisted upon it, that the strap she held on to went up a great deal faster than she wished to
24 follow, and when about one third of the way up, concluded to occupy the third chair. The girls
25 held out bravely, but I found that my strap went up a great deal faster than suited my
26 convenience – my heart beat 160, or there about, to the minute – and I was obliged to halt and
27 sit down at times, and I noticed that the spaces between the times grew shorter and shorter.
28 Two of the men offered to carry me on their shoulders. I finally consented. One placed his
29 right arm on the shoulders of the other, and he at the same time placed his left arm on the
30 shoulders of the first. Then they stooped down and I backed up between their heads and sat
31 upon their interlocked arms. They straighted up, elevating me to a very dizzy height (as I
32 thought) with nothing to hold on to, except the head of each party. They each had a staff in
33 their disengaged hand, and there was nothing to prevent my tipping backward or forward, and I
34 wobbled front and rear like a rooster on a clothes line. When about half way up, Martha
35 squatted and declared she would go back. Julia was of the same mind. We finally persuaded
36 them to try my style. They were soon elevated and found how difficult it is to sit on a wiggling
37 pair of shoulders without any thing to aid one in keeping the centre of gravity, which
38 continually shifted fore and aft and sideways. It was a marvel to me that I could be carried up a
39 path that I could not walk. What was my surprise, after resting my carriers, for one of them to
40 propose to carry me alone. He thrust his head between my legs and straightened up with the
41 greatest ease. I wrapped my legs around his body, bringing the top of each foot against the