

or elegance. Nevertheless one is repaid for a stroll in the country, where the scenery is remarkably wild and impressive—deep ravines, from which mountainous rocks rise abruptly void of every trace of vegetation except a few cacti and other hardy plants.

There is a sort of grandeur in this volcanic scenery—in the scorched craters of these enormous rocks, ribbed at the sides, rising into a variety of shapes. Now all is quiet, no traces of life, no appearance of vegetation—all is arid, dry, and parched; while away to the southward can just be discerned a fine picture of woodland scenery, arresting the eye at once by its great contrast, and, as it were, compelling one to admire the extreme beauty afforded by the charming landscape. Here and there were noticed inclosures of cacti, used in rearing the cochineal, which, with the castor-oil plant, appears to be extensively produced for exportation. Our stay at first was only for two days, during which a party of naturalists landed, and made an attempt to ascend the famous Peak (12,180 feet). They had a pleasant time of it, reaching 9000 feet, where they found the temperature of the air at night intensely cold. It was too early in the season for natural history work; still collections geological, botanical, and zoological were made.

While the naturalists were away, the vessel cruised about, and obtained a series of dredgings, serial