

Naturally enough, after being a month at sea, most were anxious for a run on shore. We found the country and scenery pretty; the lofty hills were varied in colour, and appeared to be thickly wooded with a variety of trees, all green and tempting, as far as the eye could reach.

The town, named Charlotte Amalia, has no pretensions to size or elegance. It is, however, most picturesquely situated along the northern shore of the island, backed up by high hills, and having a curious saddle-shaped mountain running through its centre, terminating in two peaks, some 1525 feet in height.

This island, which has in later years been visited with so many calamities, and laid waste from time to time by hurricanes and great revolutions in nature, still holds its position, and will continue to be an important possession, not from its trade or produce, but from its geographical situation. At the present time it is one of the most important ports of call in the West Indies, particularly for the mail service, some ten or twelve different lines reaching here monthly. There can be little doubt that the traffic will increase in proportion as sailing-vessels are superseded by steam.

A pleasant week had passed, several excursions had been made to the adjacent islands of Sombrero and St. John's, where not only dredging and sounding but good shooting were obtained.