

anchor in Grassy Bay. Nature is looking beautiful, and the temperature is genial and pleasant. These islands, situated as they are between the parallels of 32° and 33° north latitude, are about equally distant from the West Indies and the coast of North America, consequently the climate is a mean between the two, partaking neither of the extreme heat of the one nor the excessive cold of the other.

April 5th.—The morning was lovely, and from the anchorage the view in either direction was very beautiful: look where we would, there was a sort of prettiness. The land broken up into little knolls and cays; the sparkling sea running here and there into creeks, bays, and inlets, together with the ever-green foliage of the cedar and oleander, made up a very attractive landscape. Directly in front of us is the Naval Yard, with its jetties and cambers, in which were H. M. ships *Royal Alfred* (flying the flag of the Commander-in-Chief), *Terror*, *Irresistible*, and several small gunboats; later in the day the *Challenger* joined them, so as to facilitate refitting and completing necessary stores.

Close at hand is the great iron floating dock; and stretching away in either direction are extensive stores, factories, and the residences of the officials connected with the establishment.

These islands are said to have been visited nearly 400 years ago by a Spaniard named Juan Bermudez, and on their discovery being reported to Spain, they