

On the 1st July anchored off the town of Horta, in the island of Fayal, but on ascertaining from the health officer that a small-pox epidemic had broken out, it was deemed prudent not to land, and therefore on the next day proceeded for St. Michael's, which was reached on the 4th; finding it healthy, it was determined to remain for a few days.

These islands, known as the Azores, lie in the midst of the Atlantic, occupying a line of about 300 miles from N.N.W. to E.S.E., and are peculiarly remarkable for the incessant gales to which they are subject throughout the year, and on this account, joined to that of being destitute of any port that can offer a safe retreat and shelter to vessels, they have hitherto been held somewhat in dread and avoided by the trader.

The whole range, it is evident, is of submarine volcanic formation, symptoms of which are manifest to the geologist at almost every step. Their general aspect is certainly very picturesque, presenting, as they do, a series of scattered conical hills, which are in most cases extinct volcanoes, the sides of which are now beautifully clothed with verdant heaths and shrubs. Nature appears to have been very bountiful in bestowing on it all the advantages that a fine atmosphere and a pure air can impart.

In the private gardens in the immediate vicinity of the town are to be seen all the rare productions of flowers and shrubs that usually constitute our European conservatories, tastefully mingled with orna-