

were enabled to sight the island of Fernando Noronha; and later in the day came to anchor in 35 fathoms. The captain landed, and paid his respects to the Commandant, explaining the object of our visit, asking permission to survey round the island, and to explore the interior for botanical and zoological specimens. This was readily granted; but on the morrow, just as the various parties had started, a message arrived withdrawing the permission previously given; the commandant stating that he could not, without the sanction of his government, take upon himself the responsibility of allowing any investigation, or of collecting a single insect or plant.

This group consists of two islands and several rocks, exposed to the whole swell of the Atlantic, and the surf breaks constantly and heavily on its shores. The islands are strange specimens of volcanic formation, needle-like rocks, sugar-loafed pinnacles, and overhanging cliffs.

The central peak is named the Pyramid, and is about 1000 feet above the level of the sea, the upper part of which seems to overhang the base. The islands appear to be well wooded. Trees abound on the higher parts of the land, with wondrous creepers clustering among their branches. Of fruit, the principal seem to be bananas and melons. At the present time it is used as a penal settlement by the Brazilian government, giving shelter to some 1500 to 2000 prisoners. A fort,