

to be lying in the bay, clearing up in the increasing light; and the grand outline formed by the mountains of Seville and Granada on the one hand, and Jebel Musa and the distant range of the Atlas on the other, glowing out, peak after peak, in rose-color and bronze, and then slowly subsiding into their normal shades of purple; while the blue Mediterranean stretched away, without a ripple, to the eastward.

The *Challenger* remained lashed along-side the New Mole at Gibraltar for a week. The weather, although it was little past midwinter, was warm and bright; the spring seemed already starting, and some beautiful mauve patches of almond-blossom lightened up the face of the grim old rock. The aloes were in full flower, and the "Alameda" and the grounds of the governor's summer cottage were crimson with them. I do not know any plant more ornamental. The rich color of the flower-spikes contrasts admirably with the cold gray-green of the foliage; and the rigid spear-like leaves have a thoroughly exotic look, more so than most of the plants of warmer latitudes.

*January 24th.*—A small party of us had a most pleasant excursion with Captain Phillimore, the captain-superintendent of the dock-yard. We started after breakfast in the gun-boat *Pigeon*, across the bay to Algeiras. After paying our respects to the Spanish governor, a handsome, dignified man, who received us with great courtesy, and returned our visit on the following day, we took a walk about the town, admired the market with its ample supply of fresh vegetables and fruit, and visited a large circus-like building, where for about a week in the year, in carnival-time, bull-fights are held; and which was filled with horse-trappings, and banners, and swords, and small feathered spears, and all the other tawdry and horrid paraphernalia of that barbarous sport.

A splendid aqueduct, evidently built in the old times, when Spain held a very different position from the one she holds now, brings abundance of water into the town from the high