

it was entirely detached. It is now connected with the land by a narrow neck, composed chiefly of soft scoriæ and pumice, in the middle of which there juts up an abrupt mass of dark rock called "Monte Queimada" (the burned mountain), formed partly of stratified tufa of a dark chocolate color, and partly of lumps of black lava, porous, and each with a large cavity in the centre, which must have been ejected as volcanic bombs in a glorious display of fire-works at some period beyond the records of Açorean history, but late in the geological annals of the islands.

A long straggling street follows the curve of the bay, and forks into two at the northern end; and cross streets ending in roads bounded by high sheltering walls, many of them white, tastefully relieved with blue or gray simple frieze-like borders, run up the slope into the country. The streets are narrow, with heavy green verandas to the houses, and have a close feel; but the town is otherwise clean and tidy; the houses are good, in the ordinary Portuguese style; and some of the convent churches, though ordinary in their architecture, are large, and even somewhat imposing. The church of the monastery occupied by the Carmelites before the suppression of the religious orders, overlooking the town, with its handsome façade surmounted by three Moresque cupolas, is the most conspicuous of these; and the Jesuit church, built somewhat in the same style, a little farther back from the town, is also rather effective. The suburbs abound in beautiful gardens; but they are surrounded by envious walls, and the unfortunate circumstances of our visit prevented our making the acquaintance of their possessors, of whose friendly hospitality we had heard much.

Pico, facing the town at the opposite side of the narrow strait, is at once a shelter to Horta and a glorious ornament. The peak, a volcanic cone of 7613 feet in height, rivals Etna or the Peak of Teneriffe in symmetry of form. The principal cone terminates in a crater about 200 feet deep, and nearly in