

We were surprised to find the fauna varied and abundant. As in the case of plants, it seems in some cases to take but little time for animals to spread in undiminished numbers over an area where every trace of life must assuredly have been destroyed by the rain of fire and brimstone. In the evening we passed eastward through the channel between Pico and San Jorge, and greatly enjoyed the fine scenery of the latter island, which rises inland into a bold mountain ridge, and presents to the sea a nearly unbroken mural cliff, ranging to upward of 500 feet in height.

On the evening of the 4th of July we anchored in the roadstead of Ponta Delgada, the capital of San Miguel, and the chief town of the Açores. We were a little anxious about Ponta Delgada, for we had been told at Fayal that small-pox was prevalent there also; and although our information was not very definite, and we were in hope that it might prove incorrect, it was with great satisfaction that we heard from the quarantine officer that they had had no cases for a year past. Leave was accordingly freely given, and we all prepared to make the most of our stay, which could not be extended beyond five days at the farthest, if we hoped to hold to our future dates.

Ponta Delgada is very like Horta. It curves in the same way round the shore of a bay, and gardens and orange-groves clothe the slope of a receding amphitheatre of hills; but there is more space about it, and apparently more activity and enterprise. One of the first things we saw was a locomotive steam-engine bringing down blocks of lava, to satiate, if possible, the voracity of the sea, and enable them to finish in peace a very fine breakwater, for whose construction every box of oranges exported has paid a tax for some years past. The wild south-westerly storms of winter pull down the pier nearly as fast as it is built, and the engineer has adopted the plan of simply bringing an unlimited supply of rough blocks, and leaving the waves to work their wicked will with them and arrange them