

good, and, particularly in the short supply of vegetables and fruit, it seems to suffer from its distance from Pico.

On the morning of Saturday, the 5th of July, a merry party of about a dozen of us started from Ponta Delgada to see the celebrated valley and lake of the Furnas.

As the crow flies, the Furnas village, the fashionable watering-place of San Miguel, where the hot springs and baths are, is not more than eighteen miles from Ponta Delgada; but the road is circuitous and hilly, and the entire distance to be gone over was not much less than thirty miles. We engaged four carriages, each drawn by three mules abreast, and warranted to take us the whole distance, if we chose, without drawing bridle.

The first part of our route lay through the long drawn-out suburbs of the town, past one or two churches without much character, very like those in second-class towns in Spain and Portugal. We then turned toward the interior, and walked up a long ascent, not to harass our *mulos* so early in the journey.

The road was dreary and tantalizing. We knew that it was bordered by lovely orange-groves, the last of the fragrant flowers just passing over, and the young fruit beginning to swell, and usually about the size of a hazel-nut; but of this we saw nothing; our laborious climb was between two hot black walls of rough blocks of lava, nine to ten feet high. As a partial relief, however, a tall hedge of evergreen-trees planted close within the walls rose high above them, and threw enough of shade to checker the glare on the dusty road beneath.

In the Açores at one time the orange-trees, which seem to have been introduced shortly after the discovery of the islands, were planted at a distance from one another, and allowed to attain their full size and natural form. Under this system some of the varieties formed noble trees with trunks eighteen inches in diameter. The wind-storms are, however, frequently very violent in winter, and often when the fruit was nearly ripe the best part of a crop was lost, and the trees themselves greatly