

such situations. The flavor of the aërated water is rather peculiar at first, but in the hot, steamy, sulphurous air one soon comes to like its coolness and freshness, and it seems to taste all the better from the green cup extemporized out of the beautiful leaf of the *Caladium*. The warm water from all the springs finds its way by various channels to join the river Quente, which escapes out of the "valley of the caves" at its north-eastern end, and, brawling down through a pretty wooded gorge, joins the sea on the north coast about six miles from Villa Franca.

We left Gren'a after breakfast next morning, our long train of about twenty saddle and baggage asses winding along the eastern shore of the lake and up the steep passes—gloriously fringed and mantled with *Woodwardia* and *Pteris arguta*, and variegated with copses of the dark tree-heath and brakes of the bright green faya—to the crest of the ridge bounding the northern end of the valley; and thence down crooked and laborious ways through many gorges planted with grafted fruit-bearing chestnuts, and over many lava spurs, to the road along the south shore, where we found the carriages waiting for us. The wheat harvest was going on vigorously in the lower lands, and shortly before entering Villa Franca, a long town which straggles over four or five miles between Ribeira Quente and Ponta Delgada, we stopped and rested at a farm-house where they were threshing. The carriage I was in had fallen a little behind the rest, and when we came up the scene at the farm-yard was very lively. Outside was the threshing-floor, a hardened round area with a stake in the centre. The wheat was spread on the baked clay floor, and two sledges, each drawn by a pair of oxen, went slowly round and round, "treading out the corn." The sledges were driven, with much noise and gesticulation, by tawny, good-natured Açoreans, and were often weighted by a mother or aunt squatting on the sledge, holding a laughing black-eyed baby. The drivers were armed with enormously long poles, with which they extorted a certain amount of attention to their wishes