

Some of the wells outside the town are almost picturesque. The well building is usually inclosed within a whitewashed stone-wall, and as there is a little moisture and shade within the inclosure, generally two or three trees of respectable dimensions rise over the wall. There is usually a latticed gate of entrance, with an ever-changing group of lively, good-natured beings, as black as Erebus, clustering round it.

We left Porto Grande on the 5th of August, and proceeded on our course toward Porto Praya, the principal town on the large island of San Iago, and the seat of the Central Government of the Cape Verde group. On the 6th, the fine peak of the active volcano on the island of Fogo was in sight, and early on the morning of the 7th we anchored off Porto Praya. Although the anchorage is more exposed, and not nearly so suitable for the habitual resort of shipping, San Iago has greatly the advantage of San Vicente ashore. The town of Porto Praya is tidy and well-ordered; the Government and municipal buildings are commodious; and the central Praça is really ornamental, with a handsome fountain in the middle, and an encircling row of irrigated and cared-for trees. At one end of the town there is a fine public well. The water is led, in closed pipes, from a stream coming down from the higher land, into a large stone-built reservoir, from which there is a daily distribution from a long range of ornamental basins and spouts to a constant crowd of applicants.

The country, although on the whole somewhat arid and bare, is much less so than San Vicente. There is a large grove of cocoa-nut-trees behind the town; some of the streams are permanent, and the valleys are consequently much greener, and in some places they are luxuriantly fertile. The day we arrived we rode to the pretty little village of Trinidad; the first part of our way was very desolate, over an expanse of hot gravel relieved here and there by trailing gourds and convolvuluses, and a scrub of castor-oil plant and a low-growing almost leafless *Acacia*, with long, wicked, white spines. We passed two or