three fine examples of the celebrated baobab-tree (*Adansonia gigantea*); the trunk of the largest on our route was about 50 feet in circumference, but in some trees of the same species on the neighboring coast of Africa, which are supposed to be among the oldest trees in the world, they attain the enormous dimensions of 30 feet in diameter. The baobab-tree, with its spreading low crown and large pendulous greenish-purple flowers, has a very striking and unusual appearance.

After riding a few miles we came suddenly to a sort of basin at the head of the valley, with a slow stream passing through it and a broad belt of the most luxuriant tropical vegetation on either side. Groves of cocoa-nuts extended for miles along the banks; and the land was cleared and fenced for the cultivation of yams, sweet-potatoes, maize, pumpkins, and all the ordinary vegetable productions of the tropics. Wherever the vegetation was allowed to run wild, it passed into a tangled thicket of oranges, limes, acacias, and castor-oil shrubs; the whole so warped and felted with climbing gourds and beautifully colored *Ipomeas* that it was no easy matter to make one's way through it unless by the cleared tracks. We went a little way up the flank of one of the hills to the village, and had a good view of the valley, which contrasted wonderfully in its extreme richness and careful cultivation with the arid plains below. The swarthy inhabitants received us with their usual good-natured hospitality, and after a welcome luncheon, of which bananas, oranges, pine-apples, and cocoa-nut milk formed the principal part, we rode back to the ship, highly pleased with our experience of this unexpected oasis.

Next morning one or two of us went out in the steam-pinnace to dredge for red coral. We had learned that there was a regular coral fishery on the coast of San Iago, seven or eight boats being constantly employed, and nearly a hundred men; and that coral to the amount of upward of 100 quintals (10,000 kilos.) was exported annually. The fishery is carried on at