

neither of which we detected. All the insects and Arachnida were found in the old nests of the tern, many of which were brought on board and carefully examined.

There is not a trace of a land-plant on this island—not even a lichen. In the line within the wash of the surf there is a bright-pink band of an incrusting nullipore, which here and there becomes white, and greatly resembles a coral; and the same belt produces the conferva of which the terns' nests are built, and one or two red algæ. All the crannies in the rock are inhabited by *Grapsus strigosus*, an amphibious crab, which we had already met with on several of the Atlantic islands. Its habits amused us greatly. It was much more wary than the birds. It was by no means easy to catch them, but they kept close round the luncheon baskets in large parties, raised up on the tips of their toes, and with their eyes cocked up in an attitude of the keenest observation; and whenever a morsel came within their reach there was instantly a struggle for it among the foremost of them, and they ambled away with their prize wonderfully quickly, with their singular sidelong gait, and a look of human smartness about them which has a kind of weirdness from its being exhibited through a set of organs totally different in aspect from those to which we usually look for manifestations of intelligence.

The lobster-pots were down during the night, but they yielded little except a small species of *Palinurus*.

The structure of the rocks is peculiar, and they must be carefully analyzed before any definite opinion can be arrived at with regard to them. They are certainly, as Mr. Darwin has already pointed out, not of modern volcanic origin, like almost all the other ocean islands. They look more like the serpentine rocks of Cornwall or Ayrshire, but from these even they differ greatly in character. Mr. Buchanan examined their mineral character carefully, and subjected the most marked varieties to a rough chemical analysis. I quote from his notes. The