

the island has a very remarkable appearance. The land is generally not very high, an irregular cliff rising from the sea to a height of about a hundred feet, succeeded by undulating land and conical hills, usually covered with luxuriant vegetation. A little to our right there was a very singular-looking mountain, the Peak. A broad, craggy base rises abruptly from the sea, all the clefts among the rocks covered and filled with low vegetation, and every here and there lines and patches of bananas. From a height of about 400 feet a column of rock starts up for 600 feet more, the last 200 feet certainly inaccessible. On one side there is a great cleft undercutting a projecting portion of the rock, and adding to the grotesqueness of its outline. The citadel, a small fort, the station of the guard of Brazilian soldiers, is on the top of a projecting square cliff, right before the anchorage. The village occupies a slight depression between the citadel and the Peak, and follows the depression a good way landward. There is a little bit of sandy beach to the right of the citadel, just below the village, which is the usual landing-place; and to the left of the citadel (from the ship) there is a rather long stretch of sand, with another landing, in ordinary weather better than that near the town. To the extreme left there is a chain of small islands, one of them with a fine, bold outline called St. Michael's Rock, and another much larger, flat and rather bare, Rat Island. The view to the right is closed in by two very peculiar conical detached rocks, called "The Twins."

The captain and I went ashore in the galley to pay our respects to the governor, and to see how the land lay. There was a heavy sea rolling on the rocks and beaches. Some queer little catamarans were moving about, each with a man on it, a stool, a round basket, and a coil of fishing-line. The man either sat on the stool, or stood and propelled or guided his frail boat with one spade-like paddle, which he plied alternately on either side. Almost the whole of the boat, which consists simply of two logs