

nando Noronha is a penal settlement, belonging to Brazil. There were then on the island the usual number of about 1400 convicts. To hold them in check there are 200 soldiers, a governor, who holds the rank of a major in the army, and one or two other officials, with their families. Beyond these there are no inhabitants on the island, with the exception of the wives of some of the convicts, and a few women.

The usual terms of penal servitude range from five to fourteen years. The prisoners in this establishment are chiefly of a low grade, and most of them are convicted of heavy crimes—crimes of all kinds, except, so far as we could learn, political offenses. In Brazil the crime of murder is nominally punished with death, but the sentence is usually, if not always, commuted to one of transportation for life. A large number of the Fernando Noronha convicts are under these mitigated sentences. The convicts enjoy a considerable amount of liberty, and their life does not seem by any means one of great rigor. They are allowed to build a hut, and to cultivate a little piece of garden-ground on their own account, and to sell the produce. Their time and labor, from 6 A.M. to 4 P.M., belong to Government; and during that time they cultivate, in gangs on Government land, principally a small black bean, on which, as it seems, they themselves chiefly subsist; and maize, which is exported about monthly to Brazil, in a little Government steamer, which likewise brings supplies to the island. The convicts receive from Government each about six shillings a month, and have to keep themselves in food. Those who are expert fishers are allowed to ply their craft along the shore, a single man to a catamaran, and a certain proportion of the take goes to the Government officials. There is no boat on the island, even in the hands of the authorities.

We were all extremely anxious to work up this island thoroughly. From its remarkable position nearly under the equator, 190 miles from the nearest land, participating, to some ex-