

tent, in the conditions of the other isolated Atlantic groups, and yet, as we were well aware, in all its biological relations mainly a South American colony, it presented features of special interest to European naturalists; and it seemed to be of a size which made it possible in a few days to exhaust, at all events, the main features of its natural history. Accordingly, we arranged parties of civilians to take up different departments, and the officers of the naval staff who were not occupied in surveying volunteered to join them and help them in collecting.

In the centre of the village, in an open space with a few fine bread-fruit-trees, there is a solid building, forming a hollow square, which seems to be used chiefly as a prison for convicts guilty of offenses on the island, and partly also as a market. Near this building a few irregular but rather neat-looking houses lodge the governor and the Government officials.

We found the governor a grave, rather saturnine Brazilian, silent, partly because he spoke no foreign language and we could only communicate with him through an interpreter, and partly, I think, by nature. He asked a number of questions which surprised us a good deal from a man in his position. He inquired repeatedly what port in England we had sailed from, and to what English port we meant to return. He did not seem to understand our flag nor the captain's uniform, and asked if the ship had a commission from the British Government. He did not seem to be quite able to grasp the idea of a man-of-war for scientific purposes, and without her guns. He was very civil, however, gave us coffee and cake, and told us that we might do what we liked on the island in the way of shooting, making collections, putting up marks for surveying, etc., and offered us horses and all the aid in his power. We left him with the understanding that we were to get guides from him on the following morning, and regularly to begin our work. After our interview, Captain Nares and I wandered