passed some very beautiful bits of coast scenery; a series of little sandy bays with a steep cultivated slope above them, or a dense tangle of trees absolutely imbedded in one sheet of matted climbers, separated by bold headlands of basalt or trap-tuff. There was one particularly beautiful view when we opened "Les Jumeaux," and had the peak directly behind them.

Farther on, the cliffs became even more precipitous, with nests of sea-birds on all the ledges; tropic birds; a beautiful little tern, snowy white, which usually flew in pairs a foot or two apart, one following all the motions of the other, like a pair of paper butterflies obedient to the fan of a Japanese juggler. We could see these terns flying over the land, and often alighting upon the trees. The noddy was very common, and the booby in considerable numbers. High upon the cliffs we could see the nests of the frigate-bird (*Tachypetes aquila*), and from time to time one of these splendid birds moved in slow and graceful circles over our heads. We lay for some time below the cliffs, admiring the wonderful wealth of animal and vegetable life, and returned slowly to the ship.

In the mean time, some of our party had been foraging in the town, buying up what they could from the convicts; and we were glad to see a goodly pile of water and marsh melons, very desirable in hot weather after a long spell at sea.

On the morning of Wednesday, the 3d of September, we weighed anchor and left Fernando Noronha. Some of us who had set our hearts upon preparing a monograph of the natural history of the isolated little island, and had made all our arrangements for the purpose, were, of course, greatly disappointed; but, underlying our disappointment, I am inclined to think that there was a general feeling of relief on leaving a place which, with all its natural richness and beauty, is simply a prison, the melancholy habitation of irreclaimable criminals.

To show the rate at which the floor of the sea sinks in the neighborhood of these volcanic islands: at 11.40 A.M. on the