

the car up, and nearly threw us out of our seats. We jumped out, and looked nervously under the wheels to see what had happened; but there was no child there. The young barbarians looked at us vaguely and curiously, but not as if any thing tragical had occurred; and we were just getting into the car again, feeling a little bewildered, when a great green parrot in a cage close beside us went through, no doubt, another of his best performances in the shape of a loud mocking laugh. A wave of relief passed over the party, but we were rather late, and the drivers expressed to the parrot their sense of his conduct, I fear strongly, but in terms which, being in Brazilian patois, I did not understand.

We passed quietly down the river, with the usual mangrove swamps and their rising background of forest fringed with palms. When we got outside, we found that the wind had risen, and there was a heavy sea in the bay. The steamer was cranky, and there was something adrift with her engines, so we got a good wetting before we reached the *Challenger* about sunset.

During our stay in Bahia the steam pinnace was out almost daily, dredging in the shallow water, 7 to 20 fathoms in the bay. The fauna was wonderfully rich, every haul of the dredge bringing up large numbers of fine tropical shore forms. The Echinoderms were perhaps the most striking from the abundance of one or two large species of *Euryale* and *Antedon*. A fine calcareous sponge of unusual size was very common; a cylindrical stem two to three inches high supported a round button-shaped head like an unexpanded mushroom; the regular ladder-like arrangement of the spicules in the stem of this species is particularly beautiful.

We remained a fortnight in Bahia, and enjoyed our stay greatly: all the conditions were so new to us and so characteristic. Our friend, Mr. Hugh Wilson, who was one of the leading English residents in Bahia, and evidently a man of great