ain. There is a small fort mounting rather heavy guns, with a little pier beside it, where there is fair landing in moderate weather. There is, moreover, a large crane at the end of the pier, and a very slight shift of the trade-wind makes it necessary to rig a chair, or a bight of a rope, as the case may be, on the chain, and hoist up a new arrival. A neat little church is prominent in the middle of the town, and there is a good machine-shop; a water distillery, in case of the supply on the island running short; a barrack for about a couple of hundred marines; a street of officers' quarters—neat little square houses with trim square gardens, and a full complement of ladies and healthy-looking children, and showy subtropical flowers; a commodious hospital, and a large Government store.

All day one can see little parties of marines and Kroomen going to or returning from their work, or calling at certain hours at the store for rations to take home to their wives, and officers strolling about in their white tropical undress and "puggeries," or superintending fatigue-parties at work on the roads or in the yard.

Every thing trim and neat and precise, for Ascension, in one curious respect, stands alone among all the isles of the sea. It, or I suppose I should say "she," is in commission as one of Her Majesty's ships, a tender to the *Flora*, the guard-ship at the Cape of Good Hope, and is at present under the genial and popular command of Captain East. All the inhabitants of the island are more or less in connection with the service, and a few years ago discipline was kept up as rigidly on shore as if the island had been in truth a ship on a foreign station; smoking was allowed only at certain hours of the day, and man-of-war routine was enforced not only upon the island staff, but upon strangers also. Of late years discipline seems to have been everywhere, to a certain extent, relaxed; and in the Island of Ascension, as elsewhere, there is a great increase of community of feeling and human sympathy throughout the different