

two very far-off ships upon it, but it was merely an illusion. The actual sea was entirely shut out from view, except once for a few seconds, when a small rift in the cloud-bank occurred and gave a momentary glimpse of the rippling surface far below, a sort of vista dimmed by the misty frame through which it was seen. All the while the snowy Peak itself was perfectly cloudless, and stood out clear and sharp against a deep blue arctic looking sky. Soon the sunlight faded, and the moon shone out brightly, and the Peak glistened in its light, which was strong enough to read by easily. The view of the tent and camp fire amongst the dark broom bushes, with the moonlit snowy Peak in the background, fronted by some dark ridges of lava, was most picturesque. Some of the large dry retama bushes were set fire to, and a glaring blaze was soon raised, the flames shooting high up into the air, so that they were seen at Orotava, and even as far as Santa Cruz. The ground was frozen on the surface around the tent during the night, the thermometer standing at 30° F. just before sunrise.

From the camp the party walked to the Cañadas—a remarkable plain covered with scorïæ, and shut in on nearly all sides by a perpendicular wall of basaltic cliff. From this plain of vast extent the present terminal cone of the mountain rises. The Cañadas represents an ancient and much larger crater, in the centre of the remnant of which the more modern smaller peak has been thrown up. The bottom of the Cañadas is dotted over with the retama bushes, but the ground is devoid of any other vegetation. Rabbits were found to be tolerably abundant, but were so wary that none were shot. They feed on the retama and make no holes, but live in any chance crack or hole in the rocks. The radiant heat of the sun was extremely powerful on the arid plain of the Cañadas. Both guides and mule drivers had deserted the party, refusing to accompany it at this season of the year to the top of the Peak. The ascent therefore was only accomplished to a height of about 9000 feet, the last 200 of which was climbed over snow. From this height were watched the often described struggles of the opposing winds, the trades and anti-trades, as shown by the eddying and twisting of the wreaths of cloud. In the neighbourhood of the camp, at 6500 feet, winter was evidently still in force as far as the animals were concerned. All the spiders and beetles found there were under stones, apparently hibernating.¹

¹ The Rev. O. P. Cambridge writes—"The collection of spiders from Tenerife contains twenty-one species, of which twelve have been previously described, these are:—

Dysdera wollastoni, Bl.
Zoropsis ochreatea, C. L. Koch (immature).
Tegenaria derhamii, Scop.
Scytodes thoracica, Latr.
Pholcus phalangioides, Fuessl.
Steatoda versuta, Bl.

Argyrodes epeira, Sim.
Tetragnatha extensa, Linn.
Epeira perplicata, Cambr.
Cyrtophora opuntiae, Duf.
Uloborus zosis, Walck.
Ocyale mirabilis, Clk.

"The remaining species await further consideration; one or two seem to be new to science, the others may probably be referred to the following genera—*Segestria*, *Tegenaria*, *Theridion* (*Theridion pulchellum*, Bl. ?), *Linyphia*, *Xysticus*, *Lycosa*,