

cliffs, which are encrusted with lichens and stained of various colours, often of a deep black, are steep talus slopes covered with oil trees with a few other shrubs sparingly intermingled. At the bottom of the valley is a strip of comparatively level land, on which are cultivated all sorts of tropical fruits, pineapples, bananas, oranges, lemons, guavas, cocoanuts, and coffee; with cassava, sweet potatoes, and sugar cane as field crops. All along the valley a little way up the slopes are small huts, where boys are stationed whose duty it is to keep off the monkeys which abound amongst the rocks, and the wild Blue Rock Pigeons (*Columba livea*), which are very numerous, and were seen flying about in flocks and alighting in the road. The fact of the existence of monkeys in the island is not mentioned in any published account of the place. They must be of some African species imported and run wild, but it would be important to determine what the species is, and future explorers would do well to try and procure a skin. The guide said that the monkeys never came out in wet weather, and so not one of them was seen. The boys kept up a constant shouting, which resounded through the valley.

At the bottom of the valley is a small stream running rapidly over the stones, like a trout stream, and everywhere very shallow, in which grow water cresses and several familiar English water plants; two ferns also were noticed on the banks. Two kinds of freshwater shrimps live in the stream under the stones, and are very abundant, notwithstanding the shallowness of the water. One is a *Palæmon*, a large prawn, as big as the largest specimens of our common river crayfish, and with long and slender biting claws. The other is a very different animal, somewhat smaller, and of the genus *Atya*, distinguished by having no nippers on the larger pairs of walking legs, but only simple spine-like ends to them, and by several very remarkable and characteristic features of structure. The genus is very widely spread, occurring in the West Indies, Philippines, Samoa, and Mexico. After the village of San Domingo, which consists of a few scattered thatched stone houses, had been passed, the road became very much worse and the ponies soon became completely tired out, so much so that a retreat had to be made on foot. Five hours had already been spent in the saddle and the place from which the ascent of the mountain commences was still a very long way off. A Portuguese inhabitant of the valley said that it was impossible to ascend the mountain in the rainy season, because of the falls of stones or stone avalanches which were common and dangerous. It is evident that an excursion to the summit of San Antonio, from the harbour of St. Iago, is possible only in three or four days; a good supply of provisions should be taken by any party attempting it. San Domingo valley, with its succession of mountain ridges and peaks becoming bluer and bluer in the distance, is one of the finest of mountain valleys, and the tropical vegetation with which it is clothed gives it an especial charm. The sight of such a place is particularly delightful to a traveller who has for weeks been trudging the arid hills and plains of St. Vincent, or one who has just ascended to it from the almost equally sterile plains about the coast of St. Iago.