

great rage, and made an excited oration about the hardships of his position, and the terrible depreciation in the value of slaves, and left. He was said to receive £60 per annum as stipend, and fees in addition.

“ We had some excellent fresh beef for dinner, fried in small pieces with garlic and potatoes and carrots, and with it farinha, the coarse meal made from cassava root, the fine siftings from which are tapioca. The farinha (farina) is universally used here, and is very good with gravy.

“ The sleeping apartment was a space about 8 feet square, separated from the front room by a low partition. In it were three light cane-bottomed sofas, one at each end, and one opposite the door; they were packed so close together as to touch one another. A neatly folded small coverlet and a pillow were placed in the middle of each.

“ Here we turned in, the third bed being occupied by a very dirty dealer in tobacco. Rendered sleepless by the fleas, I lay awake most of the night, listening to the mingled crying of children, barking of dogs, croaking of frogs in the marsh below, and squeaking and groaning of the axles of the ox-carts bringing merchandise to the fair.

“ Though other charges were comparatively cheap, we had each to pay two shillings for our beds, as did also some of the cattle dealers who slept in a small house over the way, rented by the host for that purpose, and to keep the guests' saddles and bridles in.

“ At 6 A.M. there was no bustle or signs of the fair, and not till 9 or 10 o'clock did strings of mules, laden each with a pair of bales of tobacco, arrive opposite the inn. The mules carry about seven or eight arrobas (an arroba = 25 lbs.). The tobacco comes to the market compressed and cut into neat rectangular bundles; the merchants test it by pulling some from the bundle and rolling a rough cigar.

“ In the broad open street in the middle of the town were rows of small booths, at which farinha, fruit, vegetables, and jerked beef, imported largely from Buenos Ayres, were for sale; the dried beef varies in price from six to two milreis an arroba (1 milreis = 2s.). It seemed singular that it should pay to bring it to a place where fresh meat was so abundant.

“ Other stalls offered needles and thread, sweet stuff for children, &c.; but most trying to a naturalist's eye, were stalls where various rodents and other small native animals were for sale, spitted on wooden skewers, roasted and dried for eating. Amongst these I saw at least a dozen of the tree-climbing Ant-eater, the Tamandua, and many Three-toed Sloths: the skulls of all were split open, and they were utterly lost to science. The flesh is supposed to cure various diseases.

“ Makers of the long riding boots so fashionable here wandered about the fair trying to sell their handiwork, and I bought from a similar wanderer one of the vaqueiros leather hats, which did me the best of service in thick and thorny forests throughout the remainder of the cruise; with this on my head I could butt my way head first into any bush with impunity.