

Santa Cruz, itself. On the way, droves of mules, ponies, and donkeys were passed, laden with country produce. The countrymen wear a peculiar dress, black trousers reaching only to the knee, and an ordinary blanket of the natural colour of the wool, drawn into pleats at one end to go round the neck, and worn over the shoulders as a cloak. If the blanket were dyed of some dark or bright tint the dress would not look very remarkable; but its dirty-white colour has a strange appearance. The countrywomen have very fine figures, and are most of them very handsome. We passed through another town where a private collector has a museum containing a number of mummies, skulls and relics of the Guanches, the ancient inhabitants of the Canaries. The "gabinète," the owner of which was absent, was in a somewhat decayed condition, and was a sort of general collection of curiosities, a survival of the old Raritätenkammer, which is the parent of modern more select collections, just as the West African fetich house may be regarded as the primitive and savage representative of the Raritätenkammer. Man seems to be almost the only mammal that collects and stores uneatable objects. Amongst birds, on the other hand, the collecting instinct is widely spread, as witness magpies and Bower-birds,* and even Penguins, one of which collects variously-coloured pebbles. It will be a great pity if the Guanche remains, contained in the Tenerife gabinète, do not reach some good European museum.

From the neighbourhood of this second town was obtained the first view of the far-famed Peak, "Pico de Teyde." The middle part of the mountain was concealed by a dense bank of white clouds, the condensed vapour of the trade wind. Beneath, a broad valley stretching down to the bright blue sea, with its snow-white edging of surf, was thrown partly into deep shadow by the cloud-bank, partly lit up by the bright hot sun. The sun shone brilliantly upon the snowy peak of the mountain, high up in the sky above the clouds. On the shore lay the town of Orotava, from which the ascent was to be made. The English vice-consul at Orotava, who kindly made arrangements for the trip, told me that the growth of the vine in Tenerife was fast being supplanted by the cultivation of Cochineal; 2,000 pipes only were being produced around Orotava, whereas 200,000 were formerly made. He expected, however, that since Cochineal was falling in price, the wine trade would revive. The Canary wine is certainly of most excellent flavour.

The route up the mountain lay up a long sloping ridge,

* O. Beccari, "Le Capanne ed i Giardini del *Amblyornis inornata*." Ann. del Mus. Civ. di St. Nat. di Genova, Vol. IX., 1876-7.