

within the cloud-bank and had heavy rain, and should not have succeeded in lighting a fire for cooking had we not been helped by a mountain shepherd who was evidently well accustomed to setting a fire going in the rain, and soon got our kettle to boil. He was a fine, powerful man and very honest and obliging, as were all the peasants with whom we came in contact. Stimulated with a shilling he turned collector, and soon returned with boxes full of snails and beetles. The steep side of the ridge overlooking Orotava is covered with a luxuriant vegetation of laurels, heaths, and ferns, and is very different in this respect from the comparatively barren surface of the slope above. A finch (*Fringilla teydeana*) peculiar to the island of Tenerife, is to be obtained only in some pine woods near Orotava, and is rare.

In the Cochineal plantations a spider (I believe an *Epeira*) is very common, which makes a horizontally extended web, composed of fine square meshes. The web is supported by suspending threads in the midst of a globular labyrinth of irregularly disposed fibres. In the centre the horizontal net is drawn upwards into a short conical tube, at the end of which is an opening. The female always occupies a position immediately over this hole, which is apparently intended to allow of easy access to either side of the net. The egg bags are suspended in a vertical line immediately over the opening, and are often as many as four in number. In those I examined, the uppermost bag always contained fresh eggs, the lower fully developed young, and the others two intermediate stages. The male lives in the lower part of the irregular globular mass, and is very much smaller than the female, but is marked with brilliant silver patches on the abdomen.

In one of the churches at Santa Cruz is a flag taken by the Spanish from Nelson, and there preserved as a trophy. The ship left Tenerife on February 14th, and reaching the trade winds on February 20th, sailed pleasantly before them across the Atlantic to the Virgin Islands.

Off Sombrero Island, March 15th, 1873.—Whilst dredging was proceeding off the Island of Sombrero, on the approach to St. Thomas, two sharks (*Carcharias brachiurus*) were caught with a hook and line. One of these had the greater portion of one of its pectoral fins bitten off, there being a clean semi-circular cut surface, where the jaws of another shark had closed and nipped it through. Attached to the sharks were several "Sucker-fish" (*Echineis remora*), as commonly is the case. Sometimes these "Suckers" drop off as the shark is hauled on board. Sometimes they remain adherent, and are secured with their companion. In this case four out of six "Suckers"