

species of *Peripatus* * is found in St. Thomas, but I did not succeed in meeting with any. An Agouti, a species of rodent (*Dasyprocta*), occurs in the island, and Mr. Wyman told me that it was common in the gullies near his sugar plantation. †

I went out on a shooting excursion to the opposite side of the island in pursuit of wild goats. The only game we brought back was a wild common fowl which I had shot in the bushes. Goats, pigs, guinea fowl, and the domestic fowl breed in the wild condition in various parts of the island, being sprung, as I was told, in most instances, from stock which has escaped and been scattered during hurricanes. The feral fowls are very wary like their progenitors, the Indian Jungle-fowl, and are not at all easy to shoot. We sat down to lunch on the shore. Flights of the brown pelicans (*Pelicanus fuscus*) kept passing over our heads, flying always almost exactly over the same spot on their way from one feeding ground to another. We shot a number of them as they flew over, at the desire of the German overseer of the farm where we had left our horses, who wanted the birds for eating. I should have thought a pelican to have been, next to a vulture, almost the least palatable of birds, but the man said they were very good. There were about 300 tame goats at the farm, and a few cows. The milk was sent into the town every morning in wine bottles, and fetched about eighteen pence a bottle.

Large silk cotton trees (*Eriodendron*) are common, growing along the road-sides in St. Thomas. These trees are shaped something like walnut trees, but have a rough bark. They bear large green pods full of a substance like cotton. Perched in the forks and all over their branches are numerous epiphytes of the pine-apple order (*Bromeliaceæ*). On the far side of the island I saw several "Sand-box" trees (*Hura crepitans*). The tree is one of the *Euphorbiaceæ*, allied to our Spurges, and has a poisonous irritant juice; but its most remarkable peculiarity is its fruit. A number of seed capsules, shaped like the quarters of an orange, are arranged together side by side as in an orange, so as to form a globular fruit. When the fruit has become quite ripe and dry, suddenly all the capsules split up the back, opening with a strong spring, and the whole fruit flies asunder, scattering its seeds for a distance of several yards, and making a noise like the report of a pistol. I gathered one of the fruits, which is called commonly "Sand-box," because it

* See Chapter VI.

† Mr. Wallace, "The Geographical Distribution of Animals," London, Macmillan, 1876, Vol. II., p. 63, in the account of the mammals of the West Indies, says an Agouti inhabits "perhaps St. Thomas." There seems to have been doubt about the matter.