CHAPTER II.

AZORES, MADEIRA, CAPE VERDES.

Fayal Island, Azores. Porpoises on the Feed. Town of Horta. Peculiar Dress of the Women. Island of Pico. St. Michael's Island. Native Ferns and Australian-introduced Trees. The Threshing Floor and Women at the Mill. Vegetation of the Azores. Hot Springs at Furnas. Plants Growing in the Hot Water. Caldeira das Sette Cidades. Madeira. Grand Cural. Curious Caps worn by the Men. The Island at Sunset. St. Vincent Island, Cape Verdes. Vegetation of the Island. Ascent of Green Mountain. Different Causes of Variation of Vegetation with Altitude. Structure of Basaltic Dykes. Calcareous Seaweeds on Bird Island. Habits of Crabs. Miniature Oasis. Flying Gurnet Hooked. Mode of Catching Bonito. Island of Fogo. Porto Praya, St. Jago Island. Use of Foot in Feeding by Kites. Kingfisher and Galinis. Hauling the Seine. A Large Shark. San Domingo Valley. Monkeys. Remarkable Freshwater Crustacean. Limestone Band in the Cliff of the Harbour.

Azores, July 1st to 10th, 1873.—After a voyage of 19 days from Bermuda, on July 1st, the "Challenger" steamed in towards the island of Fayal, which was soon sighted as a blue haze in the far distance which mingled with the clouds and showed a faint outline only here and there. The haze became darker and darker as the island was approached and the outline more distinct, and at last we began to make out the shape of the island clearly with our glasses, and to see the great belt of cultivation on the lower region, with its thickly set rectangular patches of ripe corn. The highest point of the island is only a little over 3,000 feet above sea level; this part of the structure was not sighted at all by us, for it remained always covered with clouds.

The whole of the Azores are volcanic, only on Sta. Maria Island is there a small deposit of limestone containing marine shells, of miocene date. The islands are composed of beds of lava, basaltic and trachytic, and cones of scoriæ and pumice. As we approached Fayal numerous craters became visible, of the usual truncated conical form, but in all stages of decay, and as usual of all sizes. Some huge volcanic masses form the main ridge of the island, and from the slopes and bases of these