

*Woodwardia radicans*, a splendid bright green fern, with large fronds, the tips of which bend over to meet the soil, and then take root, whence the name ; *Asplenium monanthemum*, hardly to be distinguished in appearance from our home *A. trichomanes* ; *Asplenium marinum*, *Adiantum nigrum*,—the lady fern, the hart's tongue, the male fern, and the common polypody. With these was *Osmunda regalis*, and abundance of the Maiden hair.

We crossed the lower central ridge of the island, and looked down upon the bright blue sea on the other side. We passed a threshing floor where threshing was going on in the old biblical style, as all over the Azores, where primitive customs are maintained to an extraordinary degree. The threshing floor is a circular flat space, usually near a house in the home corn-field, about 40 feet in diameter, and with a bottom of cement or some hard mortar. On this the corn is laid and pairs of oxen are driven round and round over it, yoked to a heavy wooden sledge-like machine, like that used for dragging casks on in England. A man often sits or stands on the drag, and the girls ride on it for fun. Usually two yoke of oxen are employed. At the floor we halted at, the oxen were not muzzled, and were feeding freely, but they often are so, as we saw at other floors.

A little further on we came upon two women grinding at the mill. A pair of circular stones, one placed on the top of the other, is used ; the upper fitted with a straight upright handle, the thing being in fact a simple quern. Two women standing facing one another catch hold of the handle, one at the top, the other lower down, and they send the upper stone round at a good pace, each exerting her strength when the handle is furthest off from her, and thus pulling to the best advantage.

We next passed a small town, Ribeira Grande, where there were numerous churches and a monastery, and a pretty patch of public garden laid out by Mr. Brown, and planted principally with Australian shrubs, *Banksias* and *Melaleucas*. At a roadside inn, at which we pulled up to water the mules and refresh the drivers, the church choir was singing remarkably well, practising an ancient chant in a room overhead, with a piano as an accompaniment. None of the poorer houses in the town, or indeed all over the island, have any glass in the windows, but only shutters. Glazed windows are scarce ; only the priests, shopkeepers, and merchants have them.

We turned up inland from the sea, and mounted the high land, making across the island again in a zigzag direction. At last we gained the summit and came out upon a moor covered with bog myrtle (*Myrica faya*), brake fern, *Woodwardia radicans*,