

when the pace was fast. We passed through the gardens on the outskirts of the town; then higher, through fields of sugarcane and corn, up amongst the vineyards, terraced on the hill sides, and with the vines trained on horizontal trellis work; then past the hovel-like cottages of the country people, till we reached the district of pine and sweet chestnut trees.

The pine woods were deliciously cool. We passed them and came out upon open grass slopes with occasional patches of basalt rock sticking up out of them, the slopes themselves being composed of disintegrated scoriæ. We climbed the slopes on foot and reached a height of about 5,000 feet. From thence we had a commanding view of the Grand Cural, a huge gorge or rent in the mountain mass, precipitous on one side and almost so on the other. The precipitous side opposite us was in the deepest shadow, so much so, that we could hardly trace the details upon its surface, but we could yet see that every available ledge had been terraced and brought into cultivation. The sun shone brightly on the dark red and purple scoriæ and lava, and on its clothing of chestnuts and pines, on our side of the chasm, which being thus in high light contrasted forcibly with the deep gloom of the opposite wall. A magnificent panorama of the south side of the island was visible from our position, with its volcanic cones and white houses scattered amidst the green. After we had enjoyed the scene but a few moments, a thick mist shut it from our view and we descended.

It is only in the highest parts of the island of Madeira that anything is to be seen of the true indigenous vegetation. Below, cultivation has destroyed the native plants. On the upper slopes the common furze and broom and the brake fern grow in abundance.

The countrymen of Madeira wear, on gala days, curious pointed blue cloth caps, very small, and resting only on the back of the head. The point is a long pointed cylinder, which sticks out stiffly from the back of the head. It seems to be a curious abnormal development, due to insular isolation, of the pointed bag which hangs down from the knitted worsted nightcap-like head covering of Mediterranean and Spanish seamen, and English yachting men. The point seems to be a sort of rudimentary organ which has undergone subse



CAP WORN BY PEASANTS OF  
MADEIRA.