

a few Euphorbia bushes (*E. tuckeyana*) could be made out in the same way. On the sandy plain at one spot is a thick growth of low tamarisk bushes which stretches from the shore inland, amongst which at about half a mile from shore is a group of half a dozen small trees. These are a Tamarind (*Tamarindus indica*), some thorny acacias (*A. albida*), and *Terminalis catappa*. They stand in an old enclosure in front of the ruins of a house, and are green and flourishing, and show that much might be done by cultivation, even for St. Vincent.

From a statement in Horsburg's Directory, in the description of St. Vincent, that "as much wood may be cut here in a short time as can be stowed away," I was led to suppose that possibly in old times there was much more vegetation in the island and hence more rain, and that the trees had been destroyed as at San Jago, according to Darwin;* but I find that in accounts of the Island published in 1676,† the vegetation is described as having almost exactly the same appearance and range as at the present day. The firewood is mentioned, but described as a bush, evidently the tamarisk, and said to be scanty and very bad. The island is described as being as barren as it is now.

The plains I found covered all over with the spiny fruit of a small creeping plant (*Tribulus cistoides*). Almost the only plants retaining any living and green leaves were the lavenders, on the bushes of which were to be found here and there a green sprout put forth apparently in anticipation of the wet season. Many of the plants were so chip dry, that I had to gather specimens in boxes, as they would not stand pressing.

The plains were covered with grass seeds. The island is said to become green as if by magic after rain, and at St. Jago, where the rain had been earlier, the plains at about 500 feet elevation were covered at the time of our visit with a bright green coat of seedlings; but a day's moderate rain which occurred on July 30th at St. Vincent had not produced any visible effect by August 5th, the day on which we sailed. The bottoms of the valleys and hill-slopes to the southward are covered with a dry hay-like grass; but the goats and cattle kept in this part of the island were dying in numbers from starvation.

On June 30th, I made an excursion with a small party, up Green Mountain. It was raining, and the coal contractor on shore, who arranged matters for our trip, warned us that we should all catch a terrible fever if we went and got wet. We

* "Journal of Researches." London, J. Murray, 1845, p. 2.

† Dapper's "Africa." Amsterdam, 1676. "Eilanden van Africa," p. 83.