

went however, and did not suffer, and I cannot help thinking that it is to some extent the extremely rare occurrence of rain which inspires dread of it in St. Vincent. Our party of three started on two ponies and a donkey, over the latter of which Murray soon broke a pet walking-stick of mine of Bermuda juniper, in trying to urge him into the right path. A strapping negress, one of the coaling gang, started on foot for the mountain with the lunch on her head.

The road led over the bottom of the old crater, and then up the steeper end of the mountain by a zigzag path in places built up in steps and in others hewn out of the rock. The soft friable soil of the plain was in many places already converted into tenacious mud by the rain.

As the hill-slopes are ascended from the plains, the plants become greener and more abundant. In a narrow gorge at the commencement of the ascent of the mountain, some small gardens were passed, at an elevation of about 200 feet above sea level. They contained sugar-cane, pumpkins, and a small date palm; and maize was just being planted in them. There were a few cotton bushes growing near. At 700 feet, Euphorbias and woody Composites commenced, and the hill-side was covered with coarse dry grass. At 1,000 feet, small *Boraginaceous* bushes with pink flowers (*Echium stenosphon*) commenced. At 1,300 feet I found the first patch of moss and *Marchantia*, with a fern and a live snail. At 1,700 feet a *Statice* (*S. Jovis barba*) was abundant on the cliff.

The lavender grows right up to the top of the mountain, but is there entirely fresh and green instead of black and withered as below. A leafless trailing Asclepiad (*Sarcostemma Daltoni*) commenced at 900 feet. All the plants on Green Mountain appear to extend their range of growth to the summit. On the summit, the land is all more or less under cultivation, and maize, potatoes, tomatoes, and pumpkins grow there. There are several cottages on the summit, and near one is a double circle of large Agaves.

In the Green Mountain, the appearance of the several plants at successive heights is due mainly to the gradual increase in amount of moisture received by the soil as a higher and higher zone is reached. Closely similar conditions determine the distribution of plants on many other mountains, such as on Green Mountain in the Island of Ascension.

The distribution of plants in successive zones on mountains which is most familiar, is that brought about by a successive decrease in temperature with increase of altitude, the Alpine flora being that which withstands a prolonged covering of snow. In Kerguelen's Land thus, a rapid decrease of vegetation is