

the water. The negroes kept feeding the fish for some time to give it confidence. A very strong piece of cord, with a hook like a salmon gaff made fast to it, was then baited with a small bit of fish, just enough to cover the point of the hook, and a stout bamboo was used as a rod. The cord was hitched tight round one end of it, with about a foot of it left dangling with the hook. One negro held the rod and the other the cord.

The bait was held just touching the surface of the water. The fish swam up directly and took it, the negro holding the bamboo struck sharply and drove the big hook right through the fish's upper jaw, and both men caught hold of the line and pulled the fish straight out on to the rock. The negroes evidently felt quite certain of their fish directly they saw it swimming backwards and forwards in front of the rock. I was astonished that so large a fish could be caught in so absurd a manner. The negro holding the pole was not six feet from the fish when it took the bait.

The inhabitants of St. Vincent are mostly negroes from the adjacent coast. In the town at Porto Grande there was an albino negress, who was exhibited to visitors.

Of birds the most conspicuous at St. Vincent are the scavenger vultures (*Cathartes pernicopterus*), the same which are to be seen in great numbers about the native town at Aden, and about all the towns of Egypt and northern Africa, and which even follow caravans across the desert as gulls follow ships. The birds were always to be seen about the waste land close to the town where garbage was thrown, and were often to be seen hunting over the refuse heaps in company with ravens and crows. Some small finches were common in flocks on the hills and some small hawks.

At the periods of migration, quails are extremely abundant on the island, as at St. Jago, and often afford good sport to naval officers; they are, however, mere birds of passage here, and there were none at the time of our visit. Of sea birds I saw a cormorant and a bird which looked in the distance like a Merganser. Gulls and terns were absent entirely.

I was told that the goats, which are wild on the island, have all attained a red colour resembling that of the rocks, and that they were hence very difficult to find and shoot; I, however, saw none myself.

August 6th.—The island of Fogo was in sight; it appeared to our view as two truncated cones, showing out against the sky above a bank of clouds. One of the cones, which is 9,000 feet in height, is much higher than the other, and has a tiny secondary cone at one edge of its main terminal crater, just like Pico in the Azores. The volcano is active, but had no