

smoke issuing from it as we passed. The peaks showed out against the sky far above the horizon.

I was constantly astonished at the great height above the horizon to which high mountainous islands seem to rise when viewed from a long distance at sea. This appearance was especially marked in the case of the Peak of Tenerife. One is apt to scan the region of the horizon, when the Peak is just in sight, far too low down, being accustomed to search for much less elevated objects which become visible directly they rise above the horizon. The line of sight traversing in that direction, clearer air allows the summit of the high distant mountain to be visible long before the base.

When we were approaching the Azores, we sighted the island of Corvo at a distance of sixty miles. The island appeared remarkably near, being thrown up high above the horizon probably by atmospheric refraction. The distance of the island was guessed from its appearance at from seven to twenty-five miles. The island disappeared from view before mid-day by a change in the condition of the atmosphere, which nevertheless appeared clear.

St. Jago Island, August 7th, 8th, and 9th, 1873.—The ship anchored at Porto Praya, the port town of San Jago, Cape Verde Islands, on August 7th. The harbour is exposed to the south-west, and, during the rainy season, from August to October, when south-west gales are frequent, is unsafe. The harbour is bounded by black basaltic cliffs, in which, in several places, a fossiliferous limestone bed, which is described by Darwin, shows out as a conspicuous white streak.

The town is placed on an isolated mass of a flat, elevated plain, which terminates abruptly seawards in the cliffs above described. A deep valley, with a flourishing grove of cocoanut trees at its bottom, separates this mass from the main table-land on the east side. On the west side, at the base of the mass, lies a sandy plain which extends far back into the country, and terminates seawards in a sandy bay, admirably adapted for the use of the seine net. On this plain, behind the town, is a large plantation of date-palms, with artificially irrigated gardens beneath their shade. The dates were hanging thick upon the trees, but were as yet yellow and unripe; in ripening they turn first red and then deep purple or black.

There is a large Baobab tree near the town, which has been mentioned by travellers: its stem is irregular in transverse section and short; it measured 42 feet in circumference at the time of our visit. The tree was then in full flower, with no fruit as yet of any size.

The country rises inland in a succession of terrace-like steps