

often remarkably flat at the tops, and formed by successive flows of lava. The flat table-land nearest the sea was parched and had very little green upon it. Behind rises a succession of small conical hills and higher table-lands, which were brilliantly green.

As the ship came to anchor, a flock of kites (*Milvus korschum*) came wheeling round the stern, just as do gulls ordinarily, and kept swooping down after garbage from the ship. Instead of seizing the morsels with their beaks, like gulls, they did so with their claws, putting out one foot for the purpose as they swooped down, and seizing the food with it with wonderful precision. As they rose they bent down their heads and ate the food at once on the wing from their claws. Some large fish came round the ship, and amongst them some sharks, one of which was seen to seize one of the kites as it put its foot down to the water and carry it down after a short struggle.

I landed with a party in search of quail shooting. We landed at a small stone jetty under the cliff beneath the town, and mounted by a zigzag path and steps to the top; here just above the landing-place are the barracks, one-storied, with iron-grated unglazed windows, a conspicuous feature in the view of the town from the anchorage. The town consists of about two dozen two-storied houses, mostly surrounding a public square, and a number of one-storied hovels and low wooden houses, disposed in three or four parallel streets, along the ridge on which the town stands. The inhabitants are nearly all negroes, the remainder being Portuguese and half-castes. Attempts were being made to improve the place, and there was a fountain in the middle of the square with young trees planted round it, and good water is laid on to the town from a distance of several miles.

As soon as we landed we were beset by a crowd of negro boys, wanting to carry our cartridge bags and show us where plenty of quails and gallinis were to be found. We each selected our boy and made for the high flat plain across the valley to the west. The plain was covered with tufts of short dry grass, and scanty patches of young seedling grasses just coming up. Scattered about were patches of the darker green of the abundant trailing *Convolvulus* (*Ipomœa pes capræ*). The elevated plains are intersected in all directions by deep gorges cut out by water-courses which were now quite dry; the gorges have usually steeply sloping sides which terminate above in a range of cliffs.

Quails were not at all plentiful, being only migratory visitors to the island, and not having as yet arrived. The entire party shot only about twenty. The Kingfisher mentioned by Darwin