

up the ship's side. We found all the boats hoisted, and steam up, ready for sea at a moment's notice.

San Domingo Valley, with its succession of mountain ridges and peaks becoming bluer and bluer in the distance, is one of the finest mountain valleys I have ever seen, and the tropical vegetation gives it an especial charm. The sight of such a place is particularly delightful to a man who has for weeks been trudging the arid hills and plains of St. Vincent, and who has just ascended to it from the almost equally sterile plains about the coast of San Jago.

The gale did not come as was expected, and another opportunity of landing being afforded, I went with Buchanan to look at the peculiar limestone bed described by Darwin.\* On our way we passed through the grove of cocoanut trees; at the foot of these trees are numerous holes of a large land crab (*Cardisoma*); the female of this land crab was found by Von Willemoes Suhm to carry its eggs and newly hatched young under its abdomen; the young emerge from the eggs in the larval zoëa condition,† and are found in that state attached to the abdominal legs of the mother.

As we made our way along the cliff we disturbed a flock of rock pigeons which breed abundantly in the cliff, and also a wild cat, which was no doubt watching them. The cat was of a reddish tabby colour; they are very abundant on the island, and it is not easy to understand how so many animals of prey, cats, hawks, crows, etc., manage to subsist here. In the quail season no doubt they have abundance, but in the dry season they must often be nearly starved.

The limestone band exposed in the cliff around the harbour is topped by a thick mass of basaltic lava, which as it flowed over the limestone baked and heated it, and altered its structure. The limestone band crumbles and weathers away, and thus leaves a hollow all along the cliff about half way up its height, which forms a convenient path for men and goats. By the cropping out of the limestone the under surface of the lava-flow is exposed to view, and in many places ripple marks can be seen in it.

The limestone bed, where exposed to the air, is of a dazzling white; it is full of rounded nodules of a calcareous alga as described by Darwin,‡ a species of *Lithothamnion*.§ I dredged

\* C. Darwin, "Journal of Researches," pp. 5, 6.

† R. Von Willemoes Suhm, "On some Atlantic Crustacea from the 'Challenger' Expedition." "On the Development of a Land Crab." Trans. Linn. Soc., 2 Ser. Zoology, Pt. I, 1875, p. 46. Proc. R. Soc., No. 170, 1876, p. 582.

‡ C. Darwin, "Volcanic Islands," p. 3. Smith and Elder, London, 1866.  
Prof. G. Dickie, "Journ. of Linn. Soc.," Vol. XIV., p. 346.