

At about the middle of the northern coast of the main island is a remarkable column-like mass of bare rock, which projects to a height of 2,000 feet, and is known as the Peak. The south-western extremity of the island runs out into a long narrow promontory, which is composed of a narrow wall of rock.

In this, at one spot near sea level, the sea has broken a quadrangular opening through which it dashes in a cascade. This opening, known as the "Hole in the Wall," is visible from a considerable distance at sea. At the opposite extremity the island terminates in a low sandy point with sand dunes upon it, beyond which stretch out the outlying islets already referred to.

The Peak forms a most remarkable feature in the aspect of the island as viewed from the sea, and appears to overhang somewhat on one side. One other hill in the island is 300 feet in height. The island is volcanic, but has evidently undergone a vast amount of denudation, so as to obliterate all traces of the centres of eruption. The Peak is composed of phonolith, or clinkstone, as is also St. Michael's Mount, which is a conical mass 300 feet in height.

Rat Island and Booby Island are formed of a calcareous sandstone, an Æolian formation like that of Bermuda, but here containing volcanic particles intermixed. This rock is weathered in a closely similar manner to that at Bermuda, the exposed surface being covered with irregular projecting pinnacles with excessively sharp honeycombed surfaces, in places on Rat Island as much as two feet in height.

On the western side of Rat Island, close to the shore, a beach of large oval pebbles of phonolith is embedded in this sand rock. In Platform Island the sand rock overlies columnar volcanic rock. The main island is thickly wooded, and appears beautifully green from the sea.

The principal trees are what Webster, who visited the island in 1828, calls the Laurelled *Bara*, which has dark green laurel-like leaves, and an abundant milky juice, but the exact nature of which is unknown, since I did not succeed in procuring a specimen; and a Euphorbiaceous tree, or rather tall shrub, called by Webster, *Jatropha* or *Pinhao* (*Jatropha gossypifolia*).

It has a pink flower, and at the time of our visit had only single tufts of young leaves immediately beneath the inflorescence, although in full flower. Its bare stems and branches render it a striking object amongst the green of the creepers when the forest is viewed from the sea. Webster says that it casts its leaves in July and August, that is, at the commencement of the dry season. It is evidently the tree mentioned by Darwin as occurring on the Peak.