

plumage, and a bird which, from its appearance and song, I took to be a thrush of some kind. Mice are extraordinarily abundant, running about everywhere amongst the bushes. Large butterflies seemed to be absent. I saw only a small blue butterfly (*Polyommatus*). A tomtom was being beaten as a call for the convicts, which reminded me of the exactly similar drumming which wearies one on coffee estates in Ceylon.

On the slope of a hill opposite the fort is a square of open space, roughly pitched with stones, at the top of which is the governor's house, with a row of bread-fruit trees planted in front of it. A black sentry was lolling in front of the house.

I was told that there was a garrison of about 120 men on the island, and that these, with a few officials, constituted the entire non-convict population. There were said to be 1,400 convicts on the island. They are all let loose during the day-time, the blacks being locked up at night whilst the whites are allowed to live in their huts with their families, if they have any. They have to answer a roll-call daily, and are flogged if they fail.

They are all criminals, political prisoners not being confined here; many of them are murderers, capital punishment not being exacted in Brazil. They have, as a rule, a horribly ruffianly appearance, especially the blacks, and being mostly half naked they appear especially savage.

All convicts are, however, not of this bestial type. Some few are well educated, and do duty as waiters and interpreters to the governor. The interpreter for the time being was a most gentlemanly-looking fellow, and well dressed. He was well informed, and spoke English and French well; he was most polite, and on the governor's producing coffee and cake, took a cup with the rest.

He told us that the ordinary punishment for a convict was 50 lashes, but that troublesome ones got as many as 500 lashes delivered with a rod cut from one of the native trees. No one had ever stood to receive more than 250 cuts. After that they were supported by means of rests placed under the arms until the flogging was complete. Then they were taken to the hospital and never seen again. He had known a man receive 700 lashes. Two-thirds of the convicts had been flogged during the last seven months. He said he himself had had a misfortune and had got 64 years' imprisonment. He had bought off 20 of these. He would like a Bible and some newspapers. He would sooner die than be flogged. His statements must be taken for what they are likely to be worth.

The convicts receive a small pay, and are obliged to find their own living. The black ones are obliged to work for ten