

company to all the officers of the "Challenger," and the officials of the line, who were Englishmen, were extremely hospitable and gave us every possible assistance.

Leaving Bahia, the railroad led along the shores of the bay, fringed with gardens and houses. Further on, the land was covered with wild vegetation, with occasional sugar plantations and frequent cottages. Almost the whole of the land has been cleared at some time or other of the dense forest which once covered it.

On a sugar plantation, ground is cleared in patches. The patches are planted and cultivated for about fifteen years and are then allowed to run waste, or sleep, as the Brazilians put it. A fresh piece of land is then cleared, and so the whole estate is gradually gone over, and the original clearing eventually reached again. The forest land on the banks of the Lower Moselle is cultivated in much the same way.

There were no large trees to be seen along the route, but rather a dense growth of large shrubs and small trees, bound together by creepers and loaded with epiphytic plants, amongst which the *Bromeliaceæ*, plants, allied to the pine-apple, were most conspicuous, especially one with a bright scarlet and blue inflorescence.

Near the station where we stopped there was a small river and a patch of primæval forest, which was what we had come to see. A guide led us a short distance into the forest. The most striking feature about it was the immense height of the trees, their close packing, and great variety. At home we are accustomed to forests composed mainly of one gregarious species of tree. Here the trunks are covered with parasites and climbers. Mistletoes of various kinds, some of them with scarlet flowers, grow amongst the upper branches, from which also hang down the stems of various creepers in festoons, often sweeping the ground. In the forks of the great branches repose the large green masses of the Bromeliaceous plants, and up the trunks climb numerous aroids with their huge sagittate leaves. The ground is covered with decaying branches, and here and there dead trunks, on which grow fungi in abundance.

The forest was so thick as to be quite gloomy and dark, and as we passed along the path we heard no sound and saw no living animal, except a few butterflies (*Heliconiæ*), some small fish in a little stream, along which the path led, and an Oven-bird gathering mud for its curious nest. There were two deserted armadillo holes close to the path, but we saw no mammal of any kind, nor did I see a single wild mammal during my short stay in Brazil, notwithstanding the abundance