

of forms which exist in the country. The abundant vegetation hides them from the casual view, and they are not conspicuous, as in an open country, such as California.

We returned to the railway station, where we found beds made up for us in the waiting room. Thanks to the energy of the English railway officials, Bass's ale is to be had at all the stations on the line at 2s. 2d. a bottle.

As soon as it was dark, numbers of fireflies came out. The small negro boys of the village lighted a bonfire and sat round it, making horrible squealing noises by blowing through short conical tubes, made by rolling up strips of palm leaf spirally, and so arranged that at the mouth-piece there are two pieces placed flat against one another, as in the reed of a hautboy. Such excruciating sounds seem to be as pleasing to the youthful African ear as to that of the London street boy.

Next morning at daybreak, we started off to a part of the forest where the negro guide said there were Toucans. We passed a tree covered with white blossoms, over which about a dozen Humming-birds of three species were hovering. We shot some, but it is not an easy matter to obtain them in good condition. They are of so light weight that they often hang amongst the leaves when killed, and even when they do fall it is almost impossible to watch them and distinguish them from the falling leaves knocked off by the shot.

Then the ground beneath the bushes is frequently covered with thorny plants and sharply cutting grasses, amongst which it is not pleasant to force one's way, and where search is almost hopeless. The negroes who make it their business to collect Humming-birds for sale can afford to wait till they get their birds in good position.

The birds did not care at all for the sound of a gun, but went on buzzing like sphinx moths over the flowers quite unconcernedly, whilst their companions at the same bush were being shot one after another. They can even often be caught with a butterfly net, or knocked down with a hat. I saw five species on the wing whilst in the neighbourhood of Bahia.

We turned into the gloomy forest and for some time saw nothing but a huge brown moth, which looked almost like a bat on the wing. All of a sudden, we heard, high upon the trees, a short shrieking sort of noise ending in a hiss, and our guide became excited and said "Toucân." The birds were very wary and made off. They are much in request and often shot at. At last we got a sight of a pair, but they were at the top of such a very high tree that they were out of range.

At last, when I was giving up hope, I heard loud calls, and three birds came and settled in a low bush in the middle of the