

back his head with the bit at the same time. This receipt never failed to make the poor brute so thoroughly uncomfortable that he ambled as softly as possible at once.

The road led up the steep side of the river valley on to the table land above. From the top of the hill there is a fine view of the river and its valleys, and the white town below. Some trees, the leaves of which turn scarlet before dropping, set off the green of the rest of the landscape. In their action on foliage and plant life generally, the wet and dry seasons take the place of summer and winter at home, and many plants become bare of their leaves at the dry season, and only burst out again into leaf at the commencement of the wet season. This condition is far more marked in other regions of South America. Humboldt observed that certain trees anticipated the coming wet season, and put out their leaves some weeks before there was any appearance of its approach.

The road was very much like a green lane. In places a regular slough of mud, in others dry and sandy; it was broad, but usually more or less overgrown with grass and weeds, with a narrow track picked out along the best ground by the mules. There were numerous cottages along the road, and fields of tobacco, maize, and cassava; every now and then a bit of wood was passed with beautiful flowers growing about it, and amongst them numerous forms of *Melastomaceæ* with their characteristic three-veined leaves.

I saw here most of the plants which I had collected at Fernando Noronha growing as road-side weeds. As we rode on, a splendid Iguana, about three feet in length, ran across the road. I was astonished at the brilliant dark green and bright yellow-green colouring of the animal, and have never seen any other lizard so bright.

Every now and then a village was passed; in the first, as it was Sunday, the villagers were enjoying a cock-fight. Every villager keeps a fighting-cock. Good Lisbon wine is sold along the road; the drinking-places consist of a hole about a yard square in the gable-end of the usual mud-walled cottage, placed at such a height as to be convenient to a man on horseback, who thus gets his drink without dismounting. Ladies travel along the road either in the saddle or in a sedan chair slung between two horses or mules by means of a long pole.

A thick growth of myrtles and shrubs which was passed, was pointed out as having been the hiding-place of a notorious highway robber, a negro named Lucas, who used to lie in wait for merchants on their way to the fair at St. Anna; he was the terror of the district, and committed several murders and worse atrocities. Though he was caught and executed in 1859, stories