

Makers of the long riding boots so fashionable here wandered about the fair trying to sell their handiwork, and I bought from a similar wanderer one of the vaqueiro's leather hats, which did me the best of service in thick and thorny forests throughout the remainder of the cruise; with this on my head I could butt my way head first into any bush with impunity.

Close by the market-place was the church of the vicar already mentioned, which had a mosque-like dome ornamented with variously coloured dinner and tea plates set in patterns in cement, a very original form of decoration.

In the leather market quantities of skins of leather were exposed for sale, and also tanned puma skins used for saddle-cloths, and boa-constrictor skins, also tanned, used to make boots and said to be remarkably waterproof.

But the great sight of the fair is the cattle market, the situation of which has already been described; the cattle are bred at estates far up the country, where they run wild in the bush and are caught and branded, and drafted for market every two years.

The men who look after and drive the cattle are termed "vaqueiros" in Portuguese. They are of all shades of colour from black to white; they are dressed when at work from head to foot in undyed red-brown leather; they wear leather breeches, high leather boots with huge spurs, a leather coat like a longish jacket, and a leather hat with rounded close-fitting crown and broad brim: they ride small rough horses, which are worth at Feira St. Anna from £4 to £5. They ride in saddles of the form commonly called Mexican or Spanish.

The vaqueiros receive as payment from the owners every tenth head of cattle brought to market. They are, of course, extremely expert riders, and it is marvellous what work they get out of their small horses.

The breeders rarely bring the cattle to market on their own account, but sell them to dealers, who take them to Feira St. Anna, and hand them over to other dealers again, who sell them in Bahia or Caxoeira.

The cattle are driven by the vaqueiros, who use a short leather thong to strike them with. Bands of from 20 to 50 head of cattle were being driven into the market as we approached. A vaqueiro rides in front of each herd, one on each side, and one or more behind. They keep up a constant shouting, and bring the animals along at a fair pace.

Every now and then, a beast wilder than the rest, or less exhausted by the long journey from the interior, breaks away,