

When I reached the ship I found that a case of yellow fever had occurred on board. This determined our immediate departure, and we sailed for Tristan da Cunha direct, being obliged to hasten to cold weather, for fear of other cases breaking out. We thus missed our intended visit to the islands of Trinidad and Martin Vas, to which I had looked forward with the greatest interest, since they are the only islands in the Atlantic the flora and fauna of which are absolutely unknown.

A word or two about slavery in Brazil. A law is now in force by which every child born in the country is free, and further, a master is obliged to free a slave if the slave can raise a sufficient sum to buy himself off. The value to be paid is fixed by a Government valuer, and the sum is always fixed as low as possible by him. Slaves commonly buy themselves off, and a Society exists which assists them to do so, advancing the money on loan, and receiving it back by instalments. Slaves also go round and collect money from charitable people to assist them in the matter. The fact that the children become free, and that the slaves can buy themselves off so cheaply, has made them fall very much in value. A female slave's time is much taken up with her children, whom a master has to feed, although after all they do not belong to him. Hence a strong young man was worth, at the time of our visit, only about £120, and a young woman about £70 to £80.

The slaves, however, do not often change hands. Old families pride themselves on the numbers of their hereditary slaves, and often having fallen in the world and being poorly off, have nevertheless a dozen slaves, for whom they find hardly any work, and whom they can scarcely afford to keep. These slaves are much attached to their masters, and often their masters to them. A member of the House of Assembly has been known to refuse to speak on an occasion of importance, because his foster-brother, a slave, had just died.

The slaves are hired out as servants: and foreign residents, especially English, who cannot hold slaves, hire them as domestic servants. They make the engagements with the slaves themselves, and pay them the wages, and the slaves carry these wages to their owners, who, if kind ones, give them a fourth part or so as a present. Other slaves are hired from the owners, but not the best ones. At the best hotel in Bahia, kept by a German, most of the servants were thus hired slaves. The proprietor said that was much better than buying slaves, since when they were ill you sent them back to their owners and got fresh ones.

Owners also employ their slaves as sellers of various goods in the streets. The slaves are usually well treated, but in some