

the shady side of the tall trunk. It was an object very easily seen, much more so than I had expected. It moved up the tree with a shambling, jerky gait, hitching itself up apparently by a series of short springs. It did not seem disposed to take a flying leap, so I shot it. It was a female with a young one clinging to the breast. It was in a tree at least 40 yards distant from any other, and must have flown that length to reach it. I understood from my guide that numbers of the animals were caught when trees were cut down in clearing. They are especially abundant at the island of Bojol, north of Mindanao, and their skins were sold at Cebu, which lies near, at four dollars a dozen.

Close by on some lower trees were several Flying Lizards (*Draco volans*), which similarly have a flying membrane, but in their case supported on extensions of the ribs. I saw the little lizards spring several times from tree to tree and branch to branch; but they pass through the air so quickly that the extension of their parachute is hardly noticed during the flight. We had several of them alive on board the ship for a day or two, where they flew from one leg of the table to another. It was curious to see two animals so widely different in structure, yet provided with so similar means of flight, thus occurring together in the same grove and even on the same tree.

At Malanipa Island, a very small island, not far from Zamboanga, natives had felled a good many large trees to make canoes. The suitable trees are usually at some distance from the water. A straight broad road is cut through the smaller wood direct from the large tree to the sea-shore; and the smaller trees are felled so as to fall across the road. On their prostrate trunks the canoe is hauled to the shore. The open avenues were extremely useful in affording an easy road into the forest for collecting purposes.

Cebu Island, January 18th to 24th, 1875.—The ship was anchored for some days in the harbour of the town of Cebu, in the island of the same name. The special interest of this place lay in its being the locality from which the well-known delicately beautiful silicious sponge, called Venus's Flower Basket (*Euplectella aspergillum*), was first obtained. The sponge is dredged up from a depth of about 100 fathoms in the channel between Cebu and the small island of Mactan.

The fishermen use, to procure the sponge, a light framework, made of split bamboo, with two long straight strips, about eight feet in length, forming its front, and meeting at a wide angle to form a point which is dragged first in using the machine. The long straight strips have fish-hooks bound to them at intervals