

The hill-sides around the town are scored by the straggling tracks of Pack Mules following the crests of the ridges. The earth being so little held together by vegetation is readily cut into by the rain. An excessively heavy rain-storm occurred just before we left Valparaiso. The water poured off the hill-sides, flooding the streets of the town, and carried so much earth with it that it buried the lines of the tramway in some places with two feet of soil, and the lines had to be dug out.

One sees the lasso in full use even on the quay of Valparaiso. It is used by the herdsmen who have to assist in shipping the cattle which they drive down from the country. I saw two refractory animals thus thrown down with the lasso on the pavement, and subdued, amongst a crowd of passers-by. It might have been awkward for the crowd if the men had missed their aim; but the matter seemed perfectly safe in their hands.

Amongst the herdsmen was a youth of about 16 years. He made a clumsy shot with his lasso, which interfered with that of one of the other men. The man rode his horse full tilt at that of the boy several times, driving in his spurs and making his horse charge with all its force. The boy returned the charge, guiding his horse so that the two met always chest to chest, and eventually the man finding that he could not upset him gave up the attempt. I was told that this charging of horses, which corresponds exactly to charging at football, is commonly practised in Chile. It was curious to see it going on in the populous street of a large city.

I went to Santiago, the capital of Chile, and also made an excursion to the summit of the Uspallata Pass, which is traversed by one of the roads leading over the Andes to Mendoza in the Argentine Republic. I started from the town of Sta. Rosa de los Andes. The Pass has been described by Mr. Darwin.*

Soon after leaving Sta. Rosa the hill-sides are seen to be covered with the tall Candelabra-like Cactus (*Cereus quisco*). It has a most strange appearance. Other forms of Cacti, each adapted to the climate of a particular altitude, succeed one another as the slope of the Andes is climbed; those that lie highest being dwarf forms scarcely rising above the ground.

On the *Cereus quisco* grows a Mistletoe (*Loranthus aphyllus*). This Mistletoe is most remarkable, because, like the plant on which it is parasitic, it is entirely devoid of leaves. It is extremely abundant, growing on nearly all the *Cereus* trees, and is very conspicuous, because its short stems are of a bright pink colour. I could not understand what it was at first, as it

* "Journal of Researches," p. 330.