

few shops were supplied with cotton, hardware, &c. There were likewise a number of little wine shops, where they also sold fruit, which they usually have in great plenty, but all their crops depend much upon the rains, and the inhabitants have also become indifferent or careless about raising more than for their own supply, from the heavy exactions of government made upon every thing that is cultivated. The demand for shipping has of late years very much decreased. The improvement in the supplies and comforts on board of vessels on long voyages, now make it unnecessary to touch in port, as was formerly deemed unavoidable.

Porto Praya is yet visited by whale-ships for supplies. Although the soil is poor, and the crops very uncertain, yet the tropical fruits and some vegetables can always be obtained here. They are usually, if time is allowed, brought from the interior. The inhabitants have at times suffered almost the extremes of famine, in consequence of the droughts that prevail for successive years, and especially during the one that took place in 1832. It gave me pleasure to hear that the timely aid sent there during its prevalence from the United States was remembered with gratitude.

The exports from these islands are salt, some ordinary wine, hides, goats' skins, and orchilla. The latter is a government monopoly. Ninety thousand milrees were paid by the company for the yearly crop, and it is said at that price to yield a handsome profit.

The climate of these islands is said to be healthy, though exceedingly warm. It is subject to fevers, which generally take place during the rainy months of July and August. There is an indistinctness in the atmosphere that I have not experienced elsewhere, which causes every thing to be ill defined, although the day may be fair. The same appearance was observed after a shower of rain as before. The temperature of the air was found here to be  $75.7^{\circ}$ , and of the water  $81^{\circ}$ .

The seine was drawn for fish in one of the coves to the eastward of the anchorage, in what we understood was a place well adapted for the purpose, but it did not prove so. I should prefer the western beach, as offering better luck and being more advantageous.

Bats were the only wild mammiferous animals seen here. For the short time we remained, our naturalists were actively employed, and many specimens were added to our collections in Ornithology, botany, shells, and zoophytes, with some fossils from the bank already spoken of.

Slaves are imported from the coast of Africa, and settlers or heads of families are not allowed to bring with them more than ten slaves.