

plished, although with difficulty. On this trip they met with fallen timber, but the Brazilian woods, in general, were remarked as being much more free from it than our own. No change in the vegetation was observed. The route through this pass is much more difficult for travellers than that of Estrella, but to the admirer of nature more interesting. From the base to the summit of the mountains the virgin forest extends. The main chain here is much broken; the peaks appear more in the form of columns or pipes, and are quite inaccessible, casting a dark shade upon the deep and wooded valleys beneath. After being hospitably entertained they came back, crossing over to the island of Pagueta, where they had an opportunity of examining the large heaps of the shells fished up out of the bay, for the purpose of burning for lime, and were not a little surprised at the numbers of different genera which composed them.

The results of these two expeditions were the addition of a great number of very interesting plants to our collection. These will be treated of in the Botanical Report.

A few days before our departure, we made a trip to the top of the Corcovado. The naturalists, who were of our party, observed that almost a total change had taken place in the plants since their last visit, about a fortnight before. I took with me the necessary instruments to measure its height, and we all amused ourselves with collecting plants, insects, lizards, &c. We took the road that turns off near Gloria, and even before we began to emerge from the city, several novel kinds of ferns were observed growing on the house-tops and walls. We soon entered coffee plantations, groves of bananas, tamarinds, mangroves, and orange trees. A vast variety of plants were pointed out to me by Mr. Brackenridge, among them the beautiful *Vochysia*, with its splendid yellow blossoms, showing conspicuous among the rest. After a fatiguing walk we reached the top. The last quarter of a mile, or the last rise to its summit, causes one to become somewhat breathless in a hot day; but when the top is gained, it is worth all the labour of climbing, and amply repays for the exertion.

The whole of the magnificent harbour, the city and environs, lay beneath our feet. A bird's-eye view is had of every thing, grouped in the most pleasing variety; and nothing strikes one so forcibly as the white sandy beaches of Botofogo and Praya Grande, with the beautiful blue of the sea washing on them. The many lakes, the castellated peaks, and the variously shaped, craggy, and broken hills, are all softened by the light and airy green vegetation, creeping up their sides so as to melt them almost into one. The harbour was