

template the prison-house of Napoleon, and the ignoble condition and uses to which it is put.

The officer in charge of the magnetic observatory complained that it was badly placed, and that both his instruments and observations suffered from the constant change of temperature, and the dampness of the situation. He politely showed us the instruments, which were in a detached building; after which we returned to Longwood, and soon after left it, glad to escape from the mist and driving wind that enveloped it.

From Longwood we took the road to Plantation House, which leads across the island, making numerous turns as it ascends and descends the gullies. Many pretty dells were occupied by neat cottages, in whose gardens were cultivated potatoes and other vegetables. Of the former, two crops are obtained within the year, and a ready sale is found for them to the vessels that visit the island. On our arrival at the porter's lodge of Plantation House, we were informed that the governor, Colonel Trelawny, had gone to Jamestown, and that the ladies of the family were not visible. We therefore, so far as time permitted, examined the grounds, which are laid out with taste, and contained a good collection of foreign trees. Some of these were very flourishing, and it was curious to see many trees of European species growing side by side with those of Australia.

Our botanists were of opinion that the tradition which prevails of the island, at the time of its discovery, having been covered with wood, is erroneous; and that the story of the destruction of this forest by goats, is equally so. The barrenness of this island is well illustrated by the difficulty with which young trees are preserved from the ravages of sheep or goats. Pasture is so scarce, that but few cattle are kept, and these are chiefly importations from the Cape of Good Hope. Their scarcity may be judged of from the price of beef, which sells for twenty-five cents a pound; and it may be as well to state, that to strangers the prices of all other eatables are equally exorbitant.

From the road near Plantation House, we had a good view of the gully in which Jamestown is situated, together with the ravines extending into it from the interior of the island. Descending, we passed over a portion of the island, which is little better than a barren rock. Yet in some places comfortable-looking houses were seen, and here and there a beer-house, or tap-room, quite in the English style, and, from all accounts, as great nuisances as low taverns are in any country. We finally reached the fortification on Ladder Hill, and made the descent of the zigzag road on the side of the cliff, passing a place