

Tillandsias, which in places cover the rocks. The abruptness of the Sugar Loaf Mountain, and those immediately behind Santa Cruz, strikes the spectator very forcibly.

The shipping do not form as in other places a dense forest of masts. There being no wharves, they are obliged to lie at anchor, exhibiting their proportions and symmetry to great advantage. They are usually seen grouped together, with their different flags flying, forming a picture that a painter would delight in.

As we proceeded up the harbour, our own flag was seen to wave over that magnificent specimen of naval architecture, the Independence; and as we passed her, our bosoms beat to the tune of Hail Columbia, played by the band.

There is a feeling of security on entering the harbour of Rio, that I have seldom experienced elsewhere, not even in our own waters. The mountains seem as it were to afford complete protection from the winds and ocean. We anchored near Enxados or Hospital Island, and found the Peacock had arrived here three days before us, and that she was proceeding with her repairs rapidly. The vessels being altogether unfit for the southern cruise, it became necessary to effect the requisite repairs as speedily as possible. While I could not but deprecate the loss of time and the shortening of the season for our southern operations, I felt it an imperative duty that I owed to those who were engaged with me on this service, not to suffer them to go among the many dangers of our southern cruise badly provided with the means to secure them against ordinary accidents, and to encounter the weather we must necessarily anticipate.

On our arrival I was told it was the beginning of the hot season, and that rains usually prevailed during the coming months. This was unpleasant news, particularly as I was desirous, whilst making the necessary repairs on the vessels, to complete a set of astronomical observations, and to perform a series of experiments with the pendulums, &c. This information, however, I did not find to be correct, and from the examination of the meteorological tables (see Appendix XVII.) obligingly furnished me by John Gardner, Esq., an American gentleman residing at Rio, I am not disposed to credit this common saying. It therein appears that rain falls as often in other months as in December, and my experience during the time of our stay corresponds with these tables. The first fortnight we had occasional rains, but before we left the harbour our parties reported that the country was suffering from drought.

Mr. Gardner has also obligingly favoured me with a table (see Appendix XVIII.) showing the monthly average of passages from the