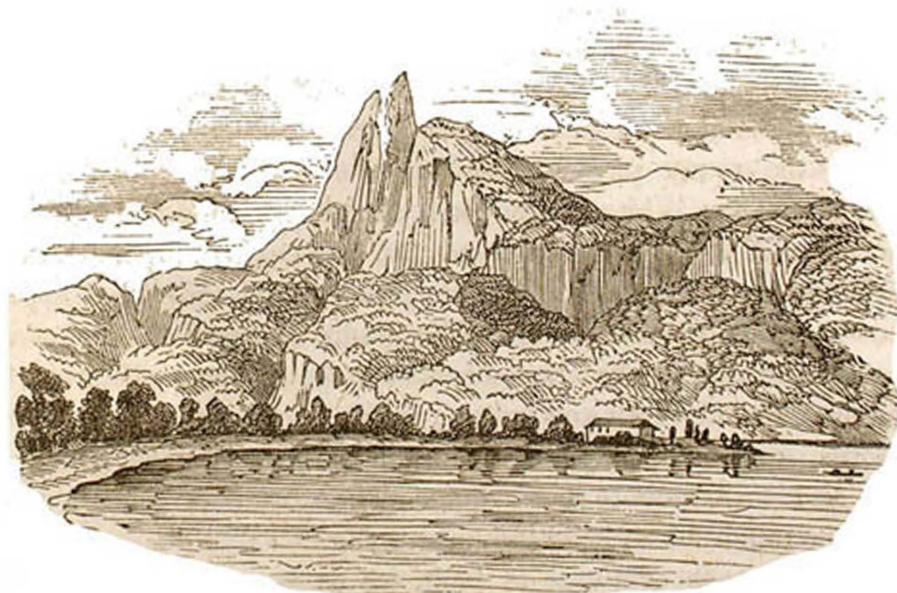


frequented are the Rua Direita and Ouvidor. The former, containing the palace and cathedral, is the broadest in the city. In the latter are the principal shops, and it is the gayest. The streets are paved with blocks of stone. The houses are for the most part two stories in height, and notwithstanding the materials are strong, yet the red tiled roofs overhang in places fearfully. The interior of the houses will not bear inspection. Ceilings, walls, and floors, are all exceedingly rough. In those of the better kind, the walls and ceilings are plastered, and have ornamented designs painted in fresco. Silk hangings are much in vogue. I was struck with the want of light and ventilation in the rooms and houses. The city in some parts has a triste appearance, but in others there are few places which show so much stir and bustle, particularly when it is considered that wheeled vehicles are not used for transportation. What gives Rio its principal charm are its suburbs and the small quintas around it. Nothing can exceed the beauty of those around Gloria and Botofogo. These situations are generally occupied by foreigners established here in business.



CORCOVADO, FROM BOTO-FOGO BAY, RIO.

The amusements of riding and fishing, with water excursions, are frequent, and of the most agreeable kind. These and other advantages of so fine a climate, soon render a residence at Rio quite desirable. There is much pleasant foreign society, composed of the diplomatic