

corps, many retired gentlemen, and generally the officers of the several men-of-war of different nations. I had the pleasure of meeting some old friends, and the time I could spare was very agreeably spent in their society.

There appears to be but little intercourse between the Brazilians and the foreign society. The female sex particularly is still much restricted in this respect, and although great improvement has taken place, yet they seldom mix in social intercourse with foreigners; I am told that even among themselves they are seldom seen except at ceremonious parties. They are very much as one would expect them to be, reserved, retiring, and wanting in education. They dress after the French fashion, and are usually covered with finery, often displaying splendid jewels, without taste. There is none of that ease and gaiety which exists where the fair sex is considered on an equality with the other, and there is a total absence of that tone which a consciousness of their value gives to society. Though there is a great advancement in their education, yet there is still much room for improvement. Formerly they were not allowed to be educated at all. Their usual place of resort during the afternoon and evening is the balconies of their houses; some of them are occasionally seen at church. It is said they soon lose their beauty, an early age being considered as their prime.

It gives me pleasure to bear testimony that I witnessed an exception to the above general rule.

Among the many places to which we had the honour of an invitation, was the White-Jacket Ball, at Praya Grande, so called in consequence of a request being made on the card of invitation, that the gentlemen would come in white jackets, and the ladies appear without brilliants or other jewels. We gladly accepted the invitation.

The row across the bay was beautiful; the water undisturbed by any breeze; the air cool and balmy; while thousands of lights along the shores, and the phosphorescence of the water, gave additional interest and brilliancy to the whole. The distance, though great, was not too much for so beautiful an evening.

After being once or twice at fault, we at last found the landing, and walked a short distance from the beach. On reaching the ante-room, we were met by the committee of gentlemen or managers, and kindly greeted without ceremony, making us at once feel at our ease. We were shortly after ushered into one of the most splendid ball-rooms I ever saw; it would contain over one thousand persons. There were upwards of three hundred present, all dressed in pure white, without any finery whatever. The room was brilliantly lighted. We were shown around and introduced to a great many