

to let the country know what were the difficulties we had to encounter.

It is always difficult to calculate upon the delays that may occur in a foreign port, particularly when it is necessary to employ foreign workmen. Their hours, habits, and manner of working, are so different from our own, that great patience is required in those who employ them. The manner in which the calkers of Rio work, would draw crowds around them in one of our own cities; to see many of them engaged on a single seam on the outside of the vessel, striking the mallet at a signal given by their leader or overseer with his whistle, is amusing. They are generally blacks, (probably slaves,) and the leader a white man. The impression made upon us all was, that they were an indolent set; yet they are said to understand their business well. I cannot, however, bear favourable testimony to their work; the calking of my ship was certainly badly done.

The uncertainty of the length of time I should be detained, rendered it impossible for me to allow long absences from the ship. I was anxious to have made some measurements of the Organ Mountains, and that our parties should extend their researches beyond them to the Campos.

Dr. Pickering and Mr. Brackenridge succeeded in making the trip to the Organ Mountains on a botanical excursion; but the outfits and duties connected with the vessels and observations, made it impossible for me to spare any officers to make the measurement of their height, or to go myself. These gentlemen set out, having taken passage in the usual freight-boat, (felucca rigged,) for Estrella, embarking their horses and mules in another. These boats are not decked, and are of sufficient tonnage to make them safe and convenient freight-boats. They generally have four or five slaves with a padron to manage them.

On leaving Rio they steered up the bay for the island of Governador, round which it is necessary to pass, on their way towards the river Anhumirim, aided by a fair breeze and fine weather. They found the sail up the bay extremely beautiful, the islands offering a constant source of interest and novelty. The mouth of the Anhumirim river was reached in about three hours. It was found about forty yards wide and quite shallow. The banks are an extensive mangrove swamp. They passed up the river about eight miles, and reached the port of Estrella at midday, where they took their horses and pursued the main road to the mines, which crosses to the westward of the highest peak. The distance to the base of the mountain