

white roofs are altogether peculiar, and as the houses and cottages of the rural population are scattered over the whole island, so as almost to run into one continuous straggling village, the white squares gleaming among the dark trees produce rather a pleasing effect, and one which is certainly very characteristic of Bermudas.

*Saturday, April 5th.*—A lovely, clear morning; the sea perfectly smooth, and the sky almost cloudless. It was so early in the season that the temperature (68° F. in the shade) was not oppressive. The view from the ship (the *Camber*); the Government basin with the floating-dock, the largest in the world, and the substantial buildings of the dock-yard, and the *Royal Alfred*, the *Terror*, the *Irresistible*, and a number of gun-boats; and the life and music and color inseparable from a military station, to the west of us; the tortuous channels with which we were soon to be very familiar between the reefs, marked out by divers-colored buoys, and leading, among the many islands of the "great sound," to Hamilton, to the south; the north coast of the main island stretching in a succession of shallow bays and wooded knolls and low cliffs, from Spanish Point to the high grounds at the entrance of Castle Harbor, to the east; and the wonderful variety and brilliancy of color of the sea all around us—were very beautiful.

Captain Nares and I went in the forenoon to pay our respects to Admiral Fanshawe, commanding on the North American station, and to the governor, General Lefroy. We rowed across the glassy sea, clearly mapped out into patches of bright purple and stripes of the most vivid green by the reefs and the sandy spaces between them. Over the reefs in some places the water was only a fathom deep or less, and we could see the great round masses of brain-coral beneath us, and the groves of purple *Gorgoniæ* and all kinds of feathery zoophytes, interspersed with yellow sponges and bunches of sea-weed in all shades of olive and bright green and red. Clarence Cove, the landing-