

from the unmuzzled oxen, much more intent upon snuffling among the sweet straw for the grains of wheat, and making the most of their brief opportunity. Within the house, whither most of our party had retreated from the roasting sun, the first large entrance room was encumbered with the beautiful ripe ears of maize, of all colors, from the purest silvery white to deep orange and red. It was high noon, however, and a lot of bright-eyed girls, who had been husking the maize, had knocked off work; and on the arrival of the strangers, a lad brought out a guitar, and they got up a dance, very simple and merry, and perfectly decorous.

Neither hosts nor guests understood one word of the others' language, but by dint of signs, and laughter, and human sympathy generally, we got on wonderfully well. It seemed to be the steading of a well-to-do farmer. There were other houses in the neighborhood, and a number of young people seemed to have congregated, so that we had a good opportunity of seeing some of the peasants. The men are generally good-looking, with spare, lithe, bronzed figures, dark eyes, and wide, laughing mouths, with fine white teeth. The women in the Açores are usually inferior to the men in appearance, but at this farm some of the girls were very good-looking also, with clear complexions, and more of a Spanish than a Portuguese type.

From Villa Franca we drove along the shore to Ponta Delgada, where we arrived early in the evening.

While we were at the Furnas some of our companions started in the other direction, to the Caldeira of the Sete-Cidades, and were greatly pleased with their trip. This crater is probably the most striking feature in the scenery of the island. The road to it from Ponta Delgada goes westward for some miles along the southern coast. It then gradually winds upward through ravines festooned with *Woodwardia*, and among rugged, volcanic masses clothed with faya and tree-heath, to the top of a crest, between two and three thousand feet in height.