

vidence; the twelfth month, when the time to collect the crop had come, they passed where Marcoy found them.

From his friends of the *olivares*, our traveller would stroll a few hundred yards higher up to chat with his neighbours of the *higuerales*. The male adult owners of the fig plantations were generally absent, as they preferred to abandon the conjugal roof and hire themselves out as labourers to the large planters of the valley, some of them returning each night and others only at the end of the week. The women of the family meanwhile attended to the gathering of the figs and their preparation, in a dried state, for the markets of the sierra towns, or engaged in the manufacture of a sort of violet-coloured wine, made from the figs, which the people call *chimbango*. (See Frontispiece.)

Still higher up the valley, this cultivated zone was succeeded by a sandy tract, irregularly interspersed with low ridges of the kind which characterizes the physical features of the coast. The normal barrenness of these hills is changed from May to October, during the season of fogs, into fertility, for the humidity causes a greensward to appear, and a multitude of charming flowers spring up and cover their surface.

One afternoon, Marcoy was greeted joyfully by Pierre Leroux, who told him that the ship with the machinery, the consul had told him, might be expected at any time within three or four days. In his impatience the master of Tambochico resolved to start for the coast with as little delay as possible, and take up his quarters at Mollendo, where the vessel was to land her cargo.

The news of Pierre Leroux's visit to the beach, and a knowledge of its purpose, having spread abroad through the valley, scores of his neighbours, people whom he scarcely knew or had never seen before, came to make inquiries regarding the wonderful machines.

On the fourth day, in the afternoon, the sails of the expected vessel appeared above the tops of the group of rocks that form Cape Islay, and about the same time an Indian arrived with a letter to Leroux from the British consul informing him that, as it would be dangerous for the ship to approach too near the beach, owing to the heavy surf, her captain had resolved to land the machines on a raft to be composed of the material for the sheds. While Leroux was reading this letter the ship came up and dropped anchor at about two-thirds of a mile from shore.