



horizon, and to a height of between seven and eight hundred feet above the sea, assuming the most

graceful and fantastic shapes as they mingled with the white feathery smoke and fell into the sea beneath. At the end of four days a crater was visible above the surface of the sea, which is here about thirty fathoms in depth, and after twenty-nine more days of eruption a complete island, about a mile in circumference, had been formed, upon which Captain Tillard and some of his officers landed. Sabrina subsided almost as rapidly as it had sprung up; for within a year all traces of it had disappeared, except an extensive shoal, from which, towards the end of February, 1812, smoke was observed to issue forth, but which has since then given no similar evidence of its existence.

On first leaving the town, our road lay between high walls, surrounding the numerous orange gardens, for which St. Michael's is so famous. It was market-day at Ponta Delgada; and we saw many peasants coming down in their varied costumes, some of the women dressed in white, and wearing cloaks or capotes, which, although they bore a strong family resemblance to one another, varied slightly in shape, according to the islands from which their wearers came: the general appearance being something like that of the Maltese "faldette." A few of the men wore very curious high-peaked



TYPES IN THE AZORES.

caps, called "carapucas, of an old-fashioned shape, with flaps, turned up just like two horns. We were also greatly interested by seeing a sheep harnessed to a small cart, which he drew as well as any horse could have done.

About noon we reached Ribeira Grande, a little town of some pretensions to importance, from the hills above which we enjoyed a magnificent view all along the north coast of the island right away towards Punta de Malagas. Resuming our journey and mounting steadily to a height of 2,000 feet, we reached the top of the pass, by which time it was nearly if not quite dark, so that we could scarcely distinguish the justly-landed view of the valley of Las Furnas, of which we had heard so much. Sulphurous and other vapours of every degree of pungency and density seemed to exude from the earth in all directions.

Las Furnas seems to be the very centre of nature's boiling-house; springs, of all sorts of mysterious mixtures of varying temperatures, bubbling and spurting forth from the earth, sometimes with considerable force, in all parts of the lovely