

driving is excellent; all around the island there are beautiful drives to the caves, lakes, palmetto and pineapple groves, past brilliant flowers and strange plants, tall palms and ragged black children. Baseball, football and cricket are played every week, and lawn tennis is a favourite game among the Nassau young people. We found the sea bathing very enjoyable, though once some of us had the painful experience of stepping on a sea-egg, a small fish which lives in a round shell, and is covered with sharp bristles. These bristles, which are about an inch long stick out through the small holes in the shell, and if they chance to get in the foot cause a great deal of pain. The shell when it is bleached and cured is very pretty, and many are carried away as curiosities. So many curious things exist here in the sea that we discovered something new and more wonderful every day. The star fish, or "sea stars," as they are called, are very plentiful, and when the tide is out are easily obtainable. They have sea porcupines, sea cats, sea eggs, sea puddings (a very unpleasant looking fish), sea spiders, and so many things corresponding to land animals and insects that it reminded me very strongly of the passage in Kingsley's "Water Babies," where he maintains that for everything on land there is something corresponding in the water world. A still stronger proof of this was seen in our visit to the famous sea gardens, one of the great show places of Nassau which strangers never fail to visit. These gardens lie a little way up the harbour, and we went in a yacht with a glass-bottomed boat attached to it. Through the glass bottom one looks at a marvellous scene of beauty and wonder. Great bunches of coral and sponge are seen; pink sea fans and purple sea feathers wave to and fro, while fish of the most beautiful colour—scarlet and blue,

white and yellow—dart in and out among the "trees," as our coloured boatman jocularly called the swaying sea foliage. As the boat moved slowly along, the scene constantly changed, and any coral or sea specimen we fancied was brought up by the sturdy divers we had with us; thus we made quite a collection. Not far from here is a body of water equally wonderful, called the phosphorescent lake, or "lake of fire." This is most interesting to see on a dark night. The phosphorescence is so strong that the men, as they swim alongside the boat under the water, seem literally on fire; each dip of the oars makes a glistening pool, and even the fish, when they venture near the surface, leave a fiery trail behind them.

I must devote a few lines to the trees and fruits of the island. Two most peculiar trees are the banyan and silk cotton, the latter being the most remarkable tree in the West Indies. Then there is the broad spreading almond tree; the large ponsiana, bearing pods two feet long; the tall, graceful palm, of which but two varieties are common, the sago and cocoanut (there was but one date palm on the island). Fruit trees: orange, banana, tamarind, sappodilla, bread-fruit, etc., are very abundant. Pineapples are very plentiful when in season; indeed, pines and sponges are the chief articles of trade between Nassau and the rest of the world. The best place to see the different varieties of vegetables, fruit, fish, etc., is in the Nassau market. I frequently went with Becky, our old black cook, and found it very interesting as well as amusing. The friendly greetings which would pass between Becky and the old market women were very comical. One withered up old dame of about seventy, who shouted "fine ripe bananas," would nod as we went by, and say to Becky, "How you do to-day chile." "So, so, honey,"