

## BERMUDA.

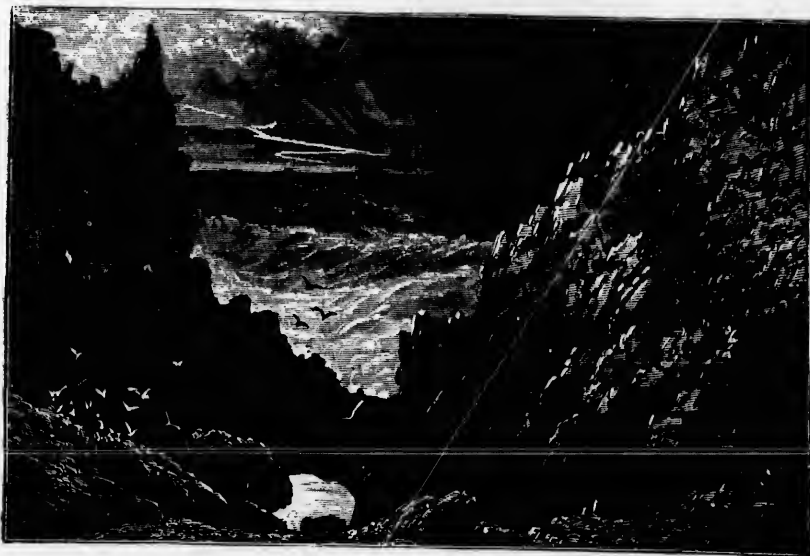
Life is not nearly as dull here as might be supposed. There are plenty of out-door amusements—driving, rowing, yachting, there being a fine club here; cricket and croquet, dinner-parties, balls, enliven the time, especially in winter. There are always two regiments of troops stationed here, together with some marines, and all this gives a certain tone to society. The "men" are not much noticed, but officers are not neglected. In a great many cases their clothes are the most interesting part of them, but still life is brighter and livelier with than it would be without them. Bermuda takes her place as a naval and military station, and gets all she can out of it.

The Governor receives every Wednesday. On Saturday a croquet party is usually given at Mount Langton, his residence. The ladies are dressed in simple garden costume. Some play, while others sit and talk under the trees. The learned judge, the sedate parson, the doughty colonel, the jovial marine, all mingle here, and take a hand in the game. The conversation may, and may not, be indifferent. You may hear the household gossip, or, if skillful, may listen to "bits of talk" about India during the rebellion, about China, the scenery of Jamaica, the gay life at Malta, or the dear old England. So the play and the talk go on until refreshments are announced, which are served in the pretty dining-room overlooking the sea. There may be music from some regimental band which will be very fair. These bands often play at their rooms, and it proves quite a pleasant entertainment.

However interesting Bermuda may be to the pleasure-seeker it is even more so to the

scientist, in proof of which statement I make the following extract from one of Colonel Nelson's valuable letters: "I have often regretted the want of a suitable opportunity of impressing on the world of naturalists the expediency of occupying Bermuda as a point with especial advantages for study in many branches of their craft. It is decidedly a hot climate in summer. One immense advantage to the naturalist in these islands is the characteristic tendency and necessity of coral formations to form well-sheltered lagoons. This, however, would be of small avail if there were sharks, but there is only one species there—the so-called blue shark, which rarely comes within the reefs unless tempted to do so in the whaling season, and even then is never aggressive, though he will fight if attacked. Again, the water on its sandy bottom is so exquisitely transparent, exactly the color of the aqua-marine variety of beryl, that in a dead calm I have distinctly seen worm heaps, corallines, etc., at a depth of eleven fathoms, which I measured exactly. Again, the summer temperature there admits of such prolonged working in the water. My last good day's work was on November 5, 1832, when, as usual, I remained from three to four hours, swimming, wading, and creeping on all fours."

A superficial survey may be made of Bermuda in a month. More critical observations will require six months or a year. He who has found in nature a friend or teacher will here have abundant cause for renewing his love, or opportunity for adding to his knowledge, and will bear away a memory of its beautiful scenes which will enrich a lifetime.—*From Harpers Magazine.*



RAVINE ON SOUTH SHORE, BERMUDA.