

THE  
VOYAGE OF THE  
BEAG  
CHARLES  
DARWIN



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Ch. Darwin

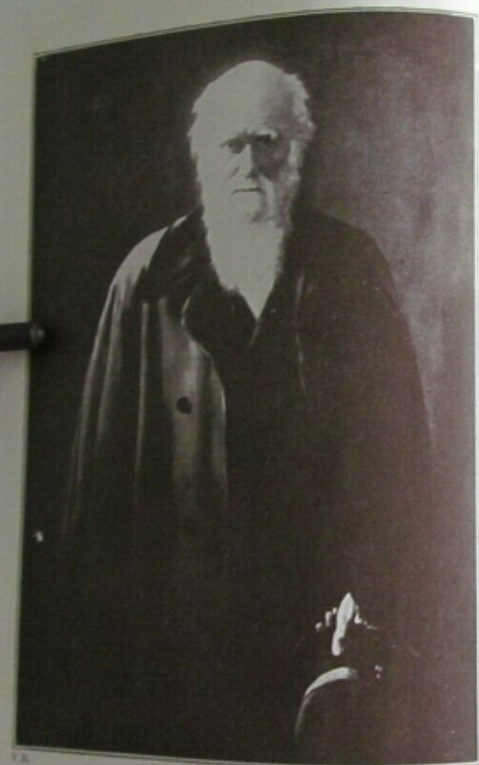
Edith M. Gallagher.

Endsleigh College

Newland,

Ill.

1909-1911.



Charles Darwin.

A

# Journal of Researches

During the  
Voyage of H.M.S. "Beagle"

By  
Charles Darwin

Illustrated  
By  
Eight Photographs

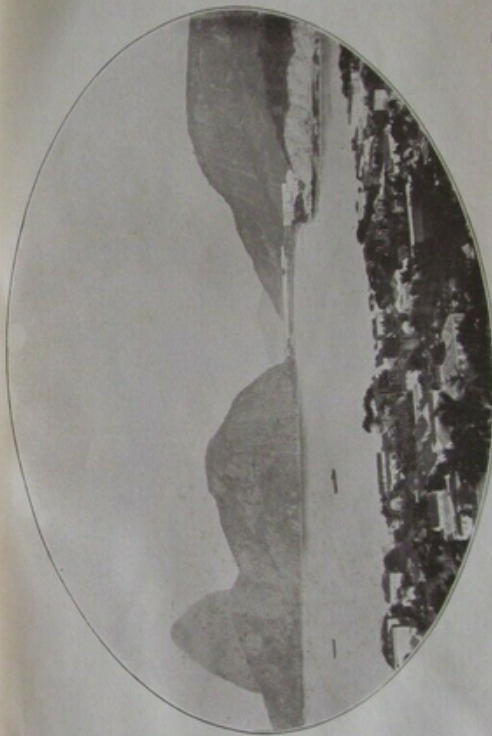
Collins' Clear-Type Press  
London and Glasgow

38  
 foot on the fine siliceous sand, a gentle chirping noise was produced. On the third day we took a different line, and passed through the gay little village of Madre de Deus. This is one of the principal lines of road in Brazil; yet it was in so bad a state that no wheel vehicle, excepting the clumsy bullock-waggon, could pass along. In our whole journey we did not cross a single bridge built of stone; and those made of logs of wood were frequently so much out of repair, that it was necessary to go on one side to avoid them. All distances are inaccurately known. The road is often marked by crosses, in the place of milestones, to signify where human blood has been spilled. On the evening of the 23rd we arrived at Rio, having finished our pleasant little excursion.

During the remainder of my stay at Rio, I resided in a cottage at Botofogo Bay. It was impossible to wish for anything more delightful than thus to spend some weeks in so magnificent a country. In England any person fond of natural history enjoys in his walks a great advantage, by always having something to attract his attention; but in these fertile climates, teeming with life, the attractions are so numerous, that he is scarcely able to walk at all.

The few observations which I was enabled to make were almost exclusively confined to the invertebrate animals. The existence of a division of the genus *Planaria*, which inhabits the dry land, interested me much. These animals are of so simple a structure, that Cuvier has arranged them with the intestinal worms, though never found within the bodies of other animals. Numerous species inhabit both salt and fresh water; but those to which I allude were found, even in the drier parts of the forest, beneath logs of rotten wood, on which I believe they feed. In general form they resemble little slugs, but are very much narrower in proportion, and several of the species are beautifully coloured with longitudinal stripes. Their structure is very simple: two small transverse slits, from the anterior one of which a funnel-shaped and highly irritable mouth can be protruded. For some time after the rest of the animal was completely dead from the effects of salt water or any other cause, this organ still retained its vitality.

I found no less than twelve different species of terrestrial



Botofogo Bay.



## CHAPTER XI.

## STRAIT OF MAGELLAN.—CLIMATE OF THE SOUTHERN COASTS.

Strait of Magellan—Port Famine—Ascent of Mount Tarn—Forests—Edible Fungus—Zoology—Great Seaweed—Leave Tierra del Fuego—Climate—Fruit-trees and productions of the southern coasts—Height of Snow-line on the Cordillera—Descent of Glaciers to the Sea—Icebergs formed—Transportal of Boulders—Climate and Productions of the Antarctic Islands—Preservation of frozen carcasses—Recapitulation.

In the end of May, 1834, we entered for the second time the eastern mouth of the Strait of Magellan. The country on both sides of this part of the Strait consists of nearly level plains, like those of Patagonia. Cape Negro, a little within the second Narrows, may be considered as the point where the land begins to assume the marked features of Tierra del Fuego. On the east coast, south of the Strait, broken park-like scenery in a like manner connects these two countries, which are opposed to each other in almost every feature. It is truly surprising to find in a space of twenty miles such a change in the landscape. If we take a rather greater distance, as between Port Famine and Gregory Bay, that is about sixty miles, the difference is still more wonderful. At the former place, we have rounded mountains concealed by impervious forests, which are drenched with the rain, brought by an endless succession of gales; while at Cape Gregory, there is a clear and bright blue sky over the dry and sterile plains. The atmospheric currents,\* although rapid, turbulent, and unconfined by any apparent limits, yet seem to follow, like a river in its bed, a regularly determined course.

During our previous visit (in January), we had an interview at Cape Gregory with the famous so-called gigantic

\* The south-westerly breezes are generally very dry. January 9th, being at anchor under Cape Gregory: a very hard gale from W. by S., clear sky with few cumuli; temperature 57°, dew-point 36°—difference 21°. On January 15th, at Port St. Julian: in the morning light winds with much rain, followed by a very heavy squall with rain—settled into heavy gale with large cumuli—cleared up, blowing very strong from S.S.W. Temperature 60°, dew-point 42°—difference 18°.



V.B.

The luxuriant vegetation of the lower part of the island not yet be seen, and as the clouds rolled past, the mountains and most precipitous peaks showed themselves towards the centre of the island. As soon as we were anchored in Papeete Bay, we were surrounded by canoes. This was on the Monday of Tahiti; if the case had been reversed, we should not have received a single visit; but the injunction not to launch a canoe on the Sabbath is strictly obeyed. After dinner we landed to enjoy all the beauties produced by the first impressions of a new country, and that country the charming Tahiti. A crowd of natives, women, and children, was collected on the Point Venus, ready to receive us with laughing, merry looks. They marshalled us towards the house of Mr. Williams, the missionary of the district, who met us on the beach, and gave us a very friendly reception. After sitting some time in his house, we separated to walk about, but returned there in the evening.

The land capable of cultivation is scarcely in any part more than a fringe of low alluvial soil, accumulated round the base of the mountains, and protected from the waves of the sea by a coral reef, which encircles the entire line of coast. Within the reef there is an expanse of smooth water, like that of a lake, where the canoes of the natives may safely and where ships anchor. The low land which comes down to the beach of coral-sand is covered by the most beautiful productions of the intertropical regions. In the midst of bananas, orange, cocoa-nut, and bread-fruit trees, spots are cleared where yams, sweet potatoes, sugar-cane, and pine-apples, are cultivated. Even the mahoe-wood is an imported fruit-tree, namely, the guava, which from its abundance has become as noxious as a weed. In Brazil I have often admired the varied beauties of the bananas, palms, and orange-trees contrasted together; and here we also have the bread-fruit, conspicuous on its large, glossy, and deeply digitated leaf. It is remarkable to behold groves of a tree, sending forth its branches with the vigour of an English oak, loaded with large and most nutritious fruit. However seldom the richness of an object can account for the pleasure of gazing on it, in the case of these beautiful woods, the knowledge of their high productiveness no doubt enters into the feeling of admiration. The little winding paths, cool from the surrounding shade, led to the scattered