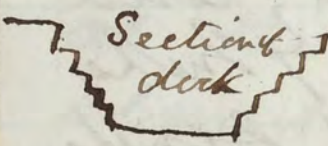


use when the parcels are small, or even a 2 y  
 carpet bag they will often carry in it, on their  
 heads of course. These creatures contrive to  
 make a bed of it too, placing it on the ground  
 in shade, the head is laid on one edge of it,  
 and the body across the basket instead of being  
 curled within it. A most uncomfortable berth  
 one would suppose, but I saw a fellow  
 turned asleep to day in this position.

Opposite the Navy yard here is an Island  
 about 2 or 3 hundred yards off, crowded with a fort  
 a military infirmary &c, but on one side of  
 a ship yard, Navy yard in fact, where the furnace  
 dock is, cut out of solid granite ledge that  
 is 50 or 60 feet above the water. To get this  
 dock a large spar had to be blown off, to  
 within 4 or 5 feet of the water edge. The dock  
 itself, admits a vessel 70 feet wide at the gate,  
 but is 90 feet wide in order to give room to  
 work around her after she is in. The dock  
 as it stands is 35 feet deep, about 250 feet  
 long with an average of 80 feet in width.  
 The sides are cut into steps, for facility of workmen  
 at the ships in it, and all the surfaces  
 are smoothly hewn - as well as quite a space  
 of the surface around  
 it, to make room for  
 machinery &c.



250 feet  
 Line of the  
 upper surface  
 of dry dock

There is another one near by it - about 50 by 180 feet  
 not quite completed, and apparently abandoned,  
 for the present, at least. A steam engine stands  
 near to pump the dock dry after the vessel to  
 be repaired has been admitted.

There are five long flat bottomed runs on  
 stocks in this yard, apparently for iron devices.  
 The timber is very heavy & fine in grain as here  
 of various kinds, often very rich in colour, and  
 some of it from very large trees. I saw also  
 among hundred of old fashioned Cannon 15  
 Whitworth Guns from all over the world, some  
 of them very heavy, yet packed in wooden cases  
 from which several of them have not yet

I saw in an acacia tree a clay nest spherical in form & of at least 10 gallons capacity - attached to strong branches, with a hole apparently round an inch diameter, as represented



I saw one at the Botanic Garden on a Jacu tree near the ground about 5 inches long, and very handsomely made and formed of clay but turned in shape of the cocoon of an *Lugard* butterfly, so often found on bushes in our pasture, 2 1/2 inches long with in bright brown silk.

There is a line of telegraph soon to be opened from here to Montevideo.

The planters are very liberal in sending their negroes *gratas* into the forests in their neighbourhood to clear the way - a line is contracted for from Montevideo across the Pampas to the west coast.

A line is running in several directions from Rio, and to all the 3 paleces I have a wire is extended, unless it may be that at Petropolis, which I am not quite sure about.

The yam here is a good vegetable, usually a pound or two in weight but I am told one was sent to France of 12 lb.

The fresh figs here are very good, not so sweet perhaps as at Lima but I like them better. The only Pine apples I have seen growing here, at all the shops at St. Domingo, but they are much smaller and inferior to those at Pernambuco where they are probably the finest in the world, and 3 to 4 times the size of those we have in our northern markets - Pernambuco is also famous for the best cotton of Brazil produced inland, but from Sea Island Seed. Bahia Oranges are probably unsurpassed, and the mangoes considered the best in Brazil. I notice many lame Negroes here, and am told it is natural, from birth, the tribal