

A PANORAMIC VIEW
OF
THE CITY OF FUNCHAL,
IN THE ISLAND OF MADEIRA:

SKETCHED ON THE SPOT

BY MRS. REGINALD SOUTHWOOD SMITH, OF STAFFORD RECTORY, DORSET:

EXECUTED IN THE TINTED STYLE OF LITHOGRAPHY, BY L. HAGHE, ESQ.,

LITHOGRAPHER TO THE QUEEN.

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THE ISLAND OF MADEIRA.

FUNCHAL is the capital and only town of Madeira, and is situated round the margin of a large bay, open to the south; immediately behind it the land rises gradually, forming terraces of vineyard and garden ground on the sides of the amphitheatre of hills, by which the bay is surrounded. The dark and rugged ravines by which these sloping grounds are deeply intersected, stand in strong contrast to the verdure that is interrupted by them. The town is of considerable extent, containing about 2000 houses and 20,000 inhabitants. It is defended by forts, and has eight churches and several convents. There are two excellent public walks near the sea called the Praça Rainha and the Praça Academica. The present view is taken from the Quinta of the Angustias, which is beautifully situated on the road leading to the locality, known by the name of the Loo Fields. It is an attempt to exhibit the beautiful mountain scenery in the back ground, including the striking ravines called João-Gomez and the Waterfall ravines,—the bay with its bold eastern promontory called the Brazen Head—the rocky group of the Desertas islands in the distance; on the left hand is the Peak fort—and immediately in front towards the right, is the new Portuguese burying-ground. The Mount church, (at an elevation of nearly 2000 feet) the governor's house, &c. &c. are also shewn in the sketch.

The population of Madeira is estimated at 115,000, who are descendants of the Portuguese. The peasants are a fine hardy race; they live chiefly on yams, pumpkins, chesnuts, and milho or Indian corn,—also on the thunny, a fish quite common in Madeira.

The principal article of commerce in Madeira is its wine: that produced on the southern side of the island is of the most delicious description.

A tradition exists, that Madeira was visited by Robert Machim, an Englishman, during the reign of Edward III. It was discovered in 1420 by Gonzalves Zarco; it was then covered by immense forests—whence its name is derived, “Madeira” signifying “wood.” The forests in the southern half of the island were set on fire, which gives it, when seen from the ocean, a somewhat barren appearance. It is situated in the Atlantic ocean, between 32° 30' and 34° 50' N. lat., and 16° 40' and 17° 20' W. long., and is 360 miles from Cape Cantim in Africa. In its greatest length the island is 45 miles, and in breadth about 15. Its circumference is 100 miles; the area is said to be 360 square miles, or nearly that of the county of Huntingdon.

Madeira in its general configuration presents the appearance of a range or mass of mountains, above which, in the centre, rise various peaks and ridges, of a very bold and rugged character. This central mass is every where riven deeply by ravines which are separated from each other by branch ridges running down towards the coasts, and terminating generally abruptly in sea cliffs of immense height. Pico Ruivo, the loftiest mountain in Madeira, is 6237 feet in elevation. The whole island is of volcanic origin, and every where presents marks of *igneous action*.

The climate of Madeira is the most equable and delightful in the world, and is of the greatest use in ameliorating or curing diseases of the chest: even where it cannot prove of permanent avail, it mitigates the distressing symptoms attendant on the last stages of consumption, by enabling the invalid to be taken out daily without risk of those sudden transitions which prevail in the climates of Italy or south of France. The thermometer commonly ranges from 60° to 75°, and in the greatest extremes seldom falls or rises more than five degrees below or above that medium. When however the African wind called the “Leste” prevails, the thermometer rises as high as 85° and 90°.

The vine is not much cultivated beyond 2000 feet above the sea-level. In the lowest region of the island many tropical plants are cultivated, as the date, palm-tree, two kinds of cactus, the sweet potatoe, Indian corn, coffee, pomegranate, and the fig; also here and there are patches of sugar cane. Above this region, to a height of from 800 to 2800 feet above the level of the sea—fruits and grain of Europe are raised; and then follows the tract amid which are to be found forests of chesnut, pine, and other trees, with thickets of broom, heath, and furze. On the highest summits of the mountains, grasses and heaths form the verdure. There are two upland plains or table lands,—that of the Paul de Serra on the west, and of the Serra do St. Antonio on the east—the former being 5000, and the latter from 2000 to 3000 feet high.—See a valuable essay by Dr. Macaulay in “the Edinburgh new Philosophical Journal,” and also “Views of Madeira,” by A. Picken, a very talented artist.



THE CITY OF FUNCHAL, MADEIRA.

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