

Spots. St. Helena when first seen from a distance appears as in reality it was when first discovered a huge mass of rocks thrown up entirely destitute of tree or shrub and defying the habitation of man. The whole extent of its sea board with the exception of two or three landing places where art has erected fortifications still remains a rock-bound and impenetrable fortress by nature. But the interior has been greatly improved. Since its discovery trees vines and plants have been transplanted and from these have sprung the delightful groves and charming spots that are now seen scattered all over the island wherever they are capable of growing and forming the most attractive parts to many of the visitors to whom after many months at sea the smallest plant is capable of affording peculiar sensations of pleasure.

History tells us: this island was discovered by the Portuguese Admiral Vasco da Gama on St. Helena's day in 1502 and that a few years after which it became the voluntary abode of Fernandez Lopez a Portuguese nobleman returning from India in disgrace: who being left on the island with a few servants and some useful animals assiduously cultivated its resources. In a few years having been recalled to his country he imparted the

advantages of St. Helena to the East India trade. Thomas Cavendish in his famous cruise around the globe visited the island in 1588 and found as he has said: Divers handsome buildings and houses a church tiled and whitened very fair a causeway made up with stones reaching into a valley by the sea-side.

This valley he describes as the fairest and largest low spot in all the island and exceedingly sweet and pleasant and planted in every place either with fruit or with herbs. There are fig trees which bear fruit continually and very plentifully for on every tree you may see blossoms green figs and ripe figs all at once and it is so all the year long. There is also a great store of lemons orange date and pomegranate trees bearing profusely and are planted carefully and very artfully with pleasant walks underneath and between them.

This is a description given many years ago and may changes have been wrought since then where many of the fig trees once grew same stone now stands a place of some note and much of the interior is cultivated with profit many of the vegetables are brought down for the supply of vessels stopping here. St. Helena has been twice subject to the Dutch and twice under the control of the East India Company but