

Since the East India Company's Charter expired it is now subject to the British Crown. Although when approaching from the sea the island appears like one vast rock surrounded entirely by the ocean and the coast high and rugged on coming nearer the prospect gradually improves the high lands appear in various hues of green and then assume the verdant aspect which distinguishes their summits. Between the rugged coast and the verdant hills and fruitful valleys of the interior there is indeed a striking contrast. But on coming to the anchorage the first that strikes the eye more favorably is the town itself situated between the mountains at the foot of the principal valley. The whole front is covered by a battery. Back of this a gate has to be passed on entering the place. This and other stations is guarded by soldiers day and night. The town has a church and chapel. St. Helena hotel. Consulate and several elegant dwelling houses and stores of various descriptions. A choice variety of trees adds greatly to the fine appearance of the whole. There are only two landing places on the island one at Rupert's and the other at Dame's or Chapel valleys. The former is not habitable and seldom visited because there is little water to be had while here

there is a sufficient supply of the purest quality which is conveyed in lead pipes from a spring in the valley distant more than a mile from the sea. Besides the shipping this is found very convenient for the garrison quartered here and for various other uses. It is said that in moderate seasons 6 hogsheads are yielded every minute if required and shipping may be supplied with 300 tons every 24 hours.

Every accessible point of this island is well defended by heavy cannon while its singular formation renders it doubly secure from an enemy. High up on a rock called Beacon's is an inaccessible fort to which all vessels coming to this landing are ordered. This is on the left as you enter. On the right or western side of the valley there is a steep hill called Ladder hill which is connected with the high land forming the western side of the valley extending into the interior upon this stands the observatory and barracks. The hill is ascended by a zigzag road cut into its side with a wall on the outer but the most direct way is by the ladder or stairs which consists of a flight of more than 500 steps reaching from the base to the top of the elevation of the works of art this is ~~some~~ <sup>one</sup> of the most remarkable carried on in Napoleon's day.