

in and about the town quite a pleasant and respectable looking place - the most so of any we have visited. Took dinner at the Hotel de Comercio. The landlady and proprietor a Dutch widow provides for the inner man in a most satisfactory manner for we had a lot of fine things consisting of fish flesh and fowl pies cakes and puddings and every thing well calculated to appease the appetite of a hungry man. On one part of the establishment are billiard tables where the mate and myself had a few games. Together we traversed almost every street in the place finding something new at every turn. There are many shops where furniture is made which business is carried on chiefly by the Dutch who are quite numerous here and on the main opposite where they farm it. Every morning they may be seen with their carves of bread coming over to the island in quest of market. The place is not large but the lower street is well provided with stores where goods provision etc. may be had at very reasonable rates. Dried beef potatoes onions and fish are plentiful in the shops and at the market. as also some kinds of fruit chiefly oranges bananas and pine apples. Towards night witnessed a Catholic funeral procession. Priests Mourners and soldiers a huge player with his instrument clad in deepest mourning leading the whole. It was

a rich man who had died and as the pale bearers passed near, where I was standing I could see that the highly polished silver ornaments of a magnificent coffin shone brilliantly in the fading sunlight. I went up to the church where service for the dead had been performed but did not enter. The large doors were thrown open and I could see by the light of the seven candles the splendidly carved wood work and paintings which adorn the interior. It must be rich and dazzling to a stranger within.

I joined the mate who had gone into a store to make a few purchases and we started for the boat which had come in to take off those who chose to sleep on board two others beside the mate and myself came off at 8 A.M. well pleased with our visit. Four of the S. watch who were on liberty ^{just now} are missing to-day and there is a report that they joined the Steamer which sailed last night for Rio de Janeiro. Our "Irish blood" Phillip is one of the number. Probably we have had all the liberty we shall get up here for as soon as we get our potatoes we shall go down to Santa Cruz for wood and water.

March 16.

All hands on board to day and busy stowing casks for water coopers barrels for oil which will be sold here. Capt. on shore most of the day and to night the mate has