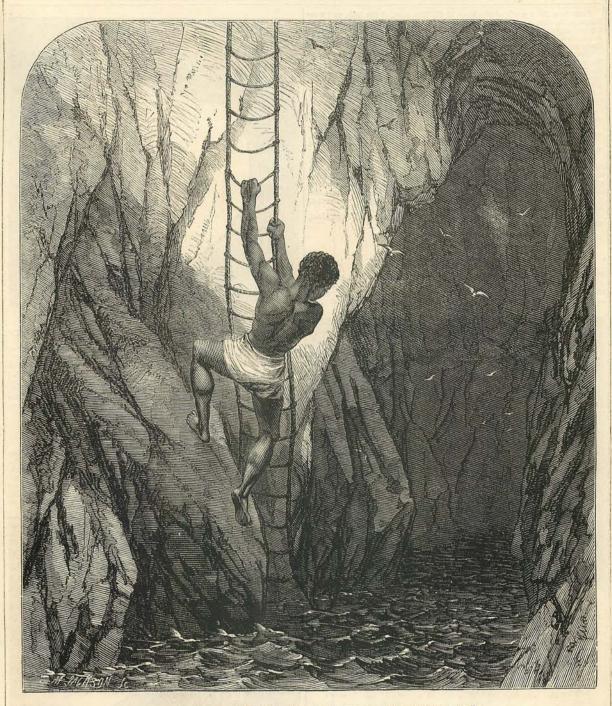
## THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON ALMANACK FOR 1865.



GATHERING EDIBLE BIRDNESTS,-FROM "THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS,"

IN a small island in the province of Bagelea, is Mount Karang-Ballong, the highest point of which is not more than 500 ft., projecting, in the form of heavy grey and black rocks, into the sea. It cam be ascended without much illustry; and if the traveller, catching hold of a rope, looks over the rock, he observes that it is not only 200 ft. high, but that it bends inwards, so that the sea is not only 200 ft. high, but that it bends inwards, so that the sea is not only 200 ft. high, but that it bends inwards, so that the sea is not only 200 ft. high, but that it bends inwards, so that he as selected as the locality for his researches, he waits till the wave on the top it beetles over the sea, which rushes in with great force below, and that in the side of the rock facing the sea innumerable fissures, caverns, and clefts reach down, even under the surface of the water. Millions of tiny, greyish birds, a species of swallow, nestel in those interstices of the rocks. They construct their nests, composed of some gluey or jelly-like substance, on the granite walls of those dark—to man almost impenetrable—caverns and fissures. There, sentinelled by the ocean, the little creatures may imagine they are safe from the coveting eye and greedy grasp of man. But they greatly deceive themselves, for these nests form a dainty dish, especially in the estimation of Chinese epicures, and are almost worth their weight in the estimation of Chinese epicures, and are almost worth their weight in the estimation of Chinese epicures, and are almost worth their weight in settled in Java, but it is also a source of wealth to the exchequer of gold. Three times a year the nest-gathering takes place in those caves and hollows. In stormy weather it would, of course, be impossible to enter them.