

been previously the case. On the 6th October, in lat.  $30^{\circ}$  south, we picked up the commencement of the "westerlies," and by their influence we made short work of the 900 miles still separating us from the islands. On the morning of the 15th land was in sight, a little speck at first rising up dark and rugged out of the sea, growing larger and larger as we neared, terminating at length in a huge conical peak some 8000 feet in height covered with snow.

It seems surprising that people can be found to leave associations and friends, and isolate themselves in such an out-of-the-way place as this, more remote from other inhabited places than any other settlement on the face of the globe. At the time of our visit the population consisted of some twenty families, numbering eighty-four in all. Soon after our anchoring a boat came off with seventeen of the islanders. Amongst them was Peter Green, their governor, from whom it was ascertained that they had plenty of cattle and vegetables for sale. This was welcome news, for fresh provisions are always acceptable after being a long time at sea. They however proved, as was found out later, that they were not above trying to make a good bargain out of us, and consequently spoiled the market for themselves.

We had approached the land as near as safety permitted; the weather promising to be fine, opportunities were taken to land. Soon after leaving the