

With this view, after making preparations, we left Southampton for St. Helena in the English steamer *Northam*, in August 1871, and were landed there the following month. On the 6th November we left St. Helena in an American whaler, the *Java*, Captain Manter, hailing from New Bedford, bound on a cruise in the South Atlantic. We shipped as passengers, and were to have been landed at Tristan. During the passage across, the captain's account of the settlers at the island, and the probable reception we should meet with from them, was in direct opposition to my brother's description of the place and people, after a stay of eighteen days only. Captain Manter described Inaccessible Island as a fertile place with a valley running up from the beach on the west side; and that the island itself and the next (Nightingale) were the seats of a seal and sea-elephant fishery. His knowledge was derived, so he said, from several visits to Inaccessible Island, where he had landed and seen both pigs and goats. Eventually my brother and I decided to try our fortunes at Inaccessible Island, and we were landed there by the whaler's boats on 27th November, 1871. We had with us a whale boat (old), bought at St. Helena, with mast, sail, and oars, two hundred pounds of rice, two hundred pounds of flour, one hundred pounds of biscuit, twenty pounds of coffee, ten pounds of tea, thirty pounds of sugar, one barrel of coarse salt (afterwards washed away), thirty pounds of block salt, and a small quantity of pepper, eight pounds of tobacco, fourteen empty barrels for oil, five bottles of hollands, six bottles of Cape wine, six bottles of vinegar, some Epsom salts (the only medicine). We each had two blankets, some shoes and boots, and our ordinary clothes. The captain of the whaler sold us a lantern and a bottle of oil; but we had no candles. For lighting purposes we had six dozen boxes of Bryant and May's matches. We also had a wheelbarrow, two spades, a shovel, two pickaxes, kettle, frying-pan, two saucepans, and eating