

utensils. For arms, we were in possession of a short Enfield muzzle-loading rifle, an old German fowling-piece, two pounds and a half of powder (and to this the mate of the whaler added one pound of blasting powder), two hundred bullets, and sufficient lead with which we made one hundred bullets more; four sheath knives (such as are used by sailors), a saw, a few nails, hammer, two chisels, some twine, two or three gimlets, a door, three spars for a roof, a glazed sash for a window, and two iron buckets. Our clothes were in chests; and we brought covers which were easily filled with birds' feathers, and made good beds. On the 27th November, 1871, we came ashore on the west side of the island, the whaler leaving in a quarter of an hour's time, after giving us a few potatoes for seed—and we had brought with us seeds of nearly all the common garden vegetables. A bitch and three pups accompanied us.

My brother at once started in search of goats or pigs, climbing, by the aid of the tussack grass, the side of the cliff to the top of the island. He was too tired to return that night, and failed to shoot any game. The next day he rejoined me, and we built a hut for shelter. The whaler crew had hauled our boat up for us. After a day's rest we both in company went after game, and shot a pig, and saw but failed to get near any goats. Four days after landing we received a visit from sixteen men, in two boats, from Tristan d'Acunha—which island was cleared of men with the exception of two. The sealing season had set in, and this was their yearly visit, hastened after learning from the captain of the *Java* that we had landed and were in possession of four boxes and letters from St. Helena for the islanders. The *Java*, after leaving us, had been becalmed off Tristan, and during the night a boat had come off to her to procure supplies. The captain of the *Java*, so the men told me, refused to barter with them, being so short a time from port.

As soon as our goods were housed, it was our intention to