

supplies. The meat of the wild goats we found to be most delicate and finely flavoured. In November 1871 the number of goats we counted to be twenty-three, chiefly rams. Of these, three were shot by the Tristan people, six were shot by us, and fourteen remained during the winter. The number of wild pigs was great; the boars, although of different sizes, standing in some cases as high as a sheep. Their food, other than roots and grass, is furnished in endless quantity by the birds and their eggs, of which an immense number are consumed by them. The meat of the boar is rank and uneatable; that of the sows wholesome and good. On 14th May 1872 (by our reckoning) an English ship came in sight; we lighted a fire and attracted the attention of her crew. The *Sea Cart* was not in a condition to go off to the vessel, and the look of the surf on the beach prevented the captain from attempting to land; and to our regret and disappointment the vessel made sail again and passed on. At Tristan d'Acunha her master reported that he had seen two people and a large square-sterned black boat on the beach, but that no one came off. Had we been able to communicate with this vessel, it was not our intention to leave the island if we could have obtained supplies. The winter set in in June, the month following; but was never very severe, although we experienced a lot of rain, and heavy gales generally from the north-west. It never froze on the level of the sea; but during a strong gale from the south-east the *Sea Cart* was washed off the beach and broken up. In May our first and only crop of potatoes obtained that year was dug, and during the following months some of the other vegetables were fit for food. Unable to reach the plateau, after the loss of the boat, our store of provisions was soon so reduced, although husbanded with care, that we were obliged to diminish our allowance daily to a quantity just sufficient to maintain life; and at the middle of August we were little better than skeletons. The male penguins,