

on which, with the meat of six others subsequently killed by me, we lived till the 10th December. The goats I found had increased to nineteen during the winter. Returning on the 10th December to our house, we arrived at the conclusion that our stay on the island would be prolonged, and repaired our thatch, weeded the garden, gathered the early potatoes, planted, and put things in order.

I have omitted to state that in fine weather, in summer, we fished from our boat with good success, and after her loss, from a rock to which we waded at low water, and thus changed our diet. In winter time the occasions on which it was possible to fish did not exceed three or four times; the weather and surf preventing our reaching the rock, and the fish avoided the beach during heavy seas.

Whilst on the west side during this month, we were visited by an American whaler (schooner), which sent in two boats to fish, and from her we procured five pounds of tobacco, three shirts, twenty-five pounds of flour, and six or seven pounds of molasses, in return for six small seal skins. The *Themis* was expected, or we should have gone away in this schooner. On the 19th December we were aroused by firing and shouting, to find our Tristan neighbours once more among us. They had spent nine days on the west side of the island, had procured forty seals and one sea-elephant; and two seals from Nightingale Island, where they had spent a couple of days. One of our casks on the west side they had taken to stow blubber in, and we received a small quantity of flour in exchange. After staying half an hour, they left, telling us that the *Themis* would visit Tristan the following month, and afterwards Inaccessible Island. Although anxious to leave, I was not desirous, except as a last resource, to go to Tristan; and buoyed up by the hope, again revived, of an early visit from the *Themis*, my brother and I remained on the island. This was the last communication with us until the arrival of the