

French surveying expedition. In the haze which surrounded them at that time he thought he had discovered the Southern Continent, as they seemed to be some miles in extent, with hills rising in double and triple ranges, the summits of which were covered with snow. About five years after this Captain Cook sailed through this same channel, and not knowing of their previous discovery, named them Prince Edward Islands, in compliment to the Duke of Kent. From this date but very little was known or written about the islands until Sir J. C. Ross visited them in April 1840. Sealing schooners have called here from time to time from the Cape, but of late without any success.

On the 31st December, after a succession of strong north-westerly winds, the first of the Crozet group of islands was seen; but the weather prevented any hope which might have been indulged in of effecting a landing; however, the islands, six in number, were all seen, and their correct position ascertained. It is over one hundred years ago that they were discovered and reported. Possessing no interest in a geographical point of view, and having no resources, they are therefore more to be avoided than approached. Very little is known about them, for Sir J. C. Ross's expedition was unable to land in 1843, and now the *Challenger's* was equally unfortunate. Later in the day the lofty mountain of East Island was seen through the haze, and on it clearing we had