

a good view of this perfect mountain mass of volcanic land, with its bold and precipitous shores and projecting rocks, which seem to have been formed by the unceasing action of the waves cutting away the softer parts. We stood up between the channel separating East and Possession Islands, the largest of the group, but saw no indication of tree or shrub. It was intended to make a short stay in America Bay, but the strong north-west wind prevented our reaching it before dark, and encountering a heavy cross sea, it was not considered safe to venture nearer. A dense fog now setting in, and a heavy gale of wind springing up, it was evident we were to be disappointed; so we stood off to sea, and the opportunity of again closing the land was not afforded.

Favoured by a strong north-westerly breeze, we advanced rapidly under sail towards Kerguelen Land; on our way passing several patches of floating seaweed. We were daily accompanied by many of the great albatrosses and the large dark petrels, and still more numerous by several varieties of speckled Cape pigeons. These birds added a degree of cheerfulness to our solitary wanderings, contrasting strongly with the dreary and unvarying stillness we experienced while passing through the equatorial regions, where not a single sea-bird is to be seen, except in the immediate vicinity of the few scattered islets and rocks. The strong breeze continued, and, with a heavy north-westerly swell assisting, on the