

fact that people can be found to isolate themselves in such out-of-the-way places as this. Doubtless, in the abstract, it is a fine thing to be monarch of all one surveys; but those who have realised it are generally found to reverse their early aspirations, and own that solitude is not good for mankind. It was on this island that Alexander Selkirk was landed in 1704, from a ship he was serving in at the time as master; and here he remained in solitude for more than four years. Eventually, on being rescued, and returning to England, he gave the narrative of his sojourn here to the great romancer of his day, Daniel Defoe, in order to prepare it for publication; and it was from the ideas so furnished that the excellent and well-known story of Robinson Crusoe was formed.

Anchoring in Cumberland Bay, in 40 fathoms, not far from the shore, we found it quite safe and pleasant. The bay has much the appearance of a huge crater of an old volcano, surrounded on all sides, except one (the entrance), with high precipitous cliffs, which are torn up into deep ravines and valleys. Here, at anchor, a couple of days were spent, and in the brief time permitted the most was made of it. All the places near at hand immortalised by Selkirk were visited—the “caves,” his “huts,” and “look-out” (a gap some 2000 feet above the level of the sea), where a glorious view, both north and south, was obtained. Here H.M.S. *Topaze*, in