

berries, and cherries are also obtainable in their seasons. Twenty-four varieties of ferns were found by the collectors, and myrtle-trees abound in great numbers over the island.

Since the discovery of the island in 1563 it has been the scene of many vicissitudes. At first it was much visited by the old buccaneers, when on their marauding expeditions against the Spaniards; and during one of these visits, in 1681, a negro (from the West Indies) belonging to one of the vessels was accidentally left behind, and remained in solitude for three years until rescued. Twenty years after this (1704) we hear of Selkirk's solitary life, and of several others, each of whom has at times been the solitary inhabitant of Juan Fernandez; which seems to entitle the island to be called the land of Robinson Crusoe. In 1717 the Spanish government, jealous of other nations coming here, established a colony; but it was soon after almost totally destroyed by a dreadful earthquake, a calamity the island has been subject to on more than one occasion since. In 1810, when the Chilians gained their independence, this island formed a part of their possessions; and in 1819 they formed it into a penal settlement, and have had as many as five hundred prisoners at a time here. But it was found expensive; and in 1835 the prisoners mutinied, and for a short time overcame the troops. After this the convicts were removed to the mainland, and the island was again deserted, and