

landed here with a view of establishing a settlement, under the direction of Sarmiento (in 1581), their object being to fortify two positions (one here, the other at Cape Possession), in order to prevent the English from passing through. After a short time Sarmiento left for Spain, and on his way there he was taken prisoner by Sir Walter Raleigh, and brought to England, while the unfortunate colonists were left to starve in the straits. Their fate remained unknown, until Cavendish passed through in 1587, when he found only twenty-four out of the original four hundred colonists. The port was then named Port Famine, in commemoration of the sad fate of its first settlers.

The excellent anchorage and sheltered position were the chief reasons for its being selected by the Chilians for establishing their first colony; but the same ill-luck appears to have attended it; for after struggling on for some years, during which time the colonists were frequently reduced to great distress by the failure of supplies arriving from Chili, it was sacked and burnt down by the convicts, who mutinied and killed all the officials, making good their escape in a small vessel. Eventually, however, they were captured, and met with their deserved punishment.

Our stay was very short here. Still numbers landed as usual in search of sport and specimens; but as so much rain had fallen, the country in all