

rough stony plateau, where thousands of sea-birds land for breeding during the season.

On the whole, the climate of Ascension may be regarded as very healthy, as it is situated in the direct track of the south-east trade-wind, having a particularly dry soil—nothing like swamp or marsh; and from the absence of all vegetation there is nothing to taint the air or to produce impurity.

Fever has occasionally been imported here from the pestiferous coast of Africa, but even that now appears to be a thing of the past. The coast being comparatively healthy, and the vessels not being kept so long on the station, we rarely hear of those dreadful epidemics which formerly made such havoc.

Ascension is famed for its excellent turtle, at one time considered the support of the island, the flesh being termed island beef. Large ponds are constructed for keeping the fish.

During the season, from December to June, men are employed along the sandy beach watching for the full-grown females to land for the purpose of laying their eggs. They crawl up the sandy beaches, and make a large hole by scooping the sand up with their flippers; having deposited their eggs in it, and carefully filled in the hole again, they prepare for their retreat to the water, but are intercepted by the watchers, who speedily turn them on their backs. At daylight they are taken to the inclosed ponds. Some of those captured weigh as much as seven cwt. They