

The specimens from great depths are much larger than those from shallow water, and are much more delicate and fragile. The largest specimens procured by Count Pourtales measured one centim. in diameter; our largest specimens were three centims. in diameter, and those from deep water in the North Pacific averaged two centims. The specimens from the diatom ooze bottom, though large, were evidently growing under circumstances unfavorable to the formation of a corallum, the bottom being almost entirely siliceous, and only containing a trace of lime; their coralla were so fragile that they broke with the slightest touch. From an examination of the long series of this coral obtained by us, there seems to be no doubt of their belonging to one species, and certain series obtained near Bermudas and the West Indies are certainly identical with the *Fungia symmetrica* of Pourtales, although some of the larger specimens seem to show close affinities with the *Lophoserinæ*.

On Tuesday, the 14th of October, we sighted the island of Tristan, distant fifty miles to the south-south-west.

The Tristan d'Acunha group, so named from the Portuguese navigator who discovered it early in the sixteenth century, lies in mid-ocean, about thirteen hundred miles south of St. Helena and fifteen hundred west of the Cape of Good Hope, nearly on a line between the Cape of Good Hope and Cape Horn; it is thus probably the most isolated and remote of all the abodes of men. The group consists of the larger island of Tristan and two smaller islands—Inaccessible, about eighteen miles south-west from Tristan, and Nightingale Island, twenty miles south of the main island. Tristan only is permanently inhabited; the other two are visited from time to time by sealers. We hear little of Tristan d'Acunha until near the close of last century; but even before that time it appears to have been the occasional resort of American sealers. Captain Patten, of the ship *Industry*, from Philadelphia, arrived there in August, 1790, and