

remained till April, 1791. There was then abundance of wood of small growth, excellent for fire-wood, where the tents of the *Industry's* crew were pitched, near the site of the present settlement; and the amount of sea-animals of all kinds—whales, seals, and sea-birds—was unlimited. Captain Patten's party obtained 5600 seal-skins in the seven months of their stay, and he says that they could have loaded a ship with oil in three weeks. In 1792 the *Lion* and the *Hindostan*, with the British embassy to China on board, touched at the island of Tristan. The *Lion* anchored off the north side of the island, under the cliff, but a sudden squall coming on, she almost immediately put to sea. The island was at that time entirely uninhabited; whales and seals were seen in great numbers on the coast. In 1811 Captain Heywood found three Americans settled on Tristan preparing seal-skins and oil. Goats and pigs had been set adrift by some of the earlier visitors, and they had become very numerous on the upper terraces. One of the Americans declared himself sovereign proprietor of the islands, and in the intervals of seal-hunting they cleared about fifty acres of land, and planted it with various things, including coffee-trees and sugar-canes, which they got through the American consul at Rio. It seems that for a time some of their crops looked very promising, but for some reason the settlement was shortly abandoned. Formal possession was taken of the islands by the English in 1817, and during Napoleon's captivity at St. Helena a guard detached from the British troops at the Cape of Good Hope was maintained there. Batteries were thrown up and a few houses built, but in little more than a year the soldiers were withdrawn. A corporal of artillery of the name of Glass, with his wife and two soldiers who were induced to join him, were allowed to remain; and since that time the island of Tristan has been constantly inhabited. In 1823 the settlers were seventeen in number, among them three women, and they had to dispose of twenty-five tons of potatoes, and abun-