

dance of vegetables, milk, and butter. In 1829, when Captain Morrell visited it in the United States ship *Antarctic*, the colony included twenty-seven families, and they were able to supply passing ships with bullocks, cows, sheep, and pigs, and fresh vegetables and milk in any quantity. In 1836 there was a population of forty-two on the island; and in 1852, when Captain Denham visited and sketched and roughly surveyed the group, it amounted to eighty-five, and he describes "the young men and women as partaking of the mulatto caste, the wives of the first settlers being natives of the Cape of Good Hope and St. Helena; but the children of the second generation he would term handsome brunettes of a strikingly fine figure." They were all, at that time, members of the Church of England, under the pastoral charge of the Rev. W. F. Taylor, who had been sent out by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, an unknown benefactor having generously placed one thousand pounds at the disposal of the society, to supply the colony with a clergyman for five years. Captain Denham speaks highly of the healthiness of the climate; he says that none of the ordinary epidemic diseases, whether of adults or of children, had reached the islands. The Rev. Mr. Taylor left in 1857, in H.M.S. *Geyser*, and with him forty-seven of the inhabitants left the island and went to the Cape of Good Hope. The condition and prospects of the settlement had somewhat altered. In its early days fur-seals with pelts of good quality, inferior only to those from some of the Antarctic islands, were very abundant, and vessels could fill up at short notice with oil; it was therefore a favorite rendezvous for American sealers, and the islanders got a ready market and good prices for their produce. Gradually, however, the great sea beasts were reduced in number, the sealers and whalers had to pursue their craft farther afield, and Tristan d'Acunha became only an occasional place of call. Another unfavorable change had taken place; in the early days the great majority of the population were