

stock must ultimately be exhausted; but that can not be for a considerable time. I do not see any thing whatever in the climate or other conditions of Tristan to prevent the growth of the more hardy varieties of the willow, the birch, and the alder. The experiment is well worth trying, for the introduction of a fast-growing hardy tree, for shelter and for fire-wood, would increase the comfort of the colony immensely; indeed, it seems to be all that is necessary to insure its permanence.

A boat came along-side early in the morning, with eight or ten of the inhabitants, some of them fine-looking, sturdy young men, somewhat of the English type, but most of them with a dash of dark blood. They brought a few seal-skins, some wings and breasts of the albatross, and some sea-birds' eggs. As it was their early spring, they had unfortunately, with the exception of a few onions which had stood over the winter, no fresh vegetables. Their chief spokesman was Green, now an old man, but hale and hearty. He made all arrangements with the paymaster about supplying us with fresh meat and potatoes with intelligence and a keen eye to business. After the departure of our guests, we landed and spent a long day on shore, exploring the natural history of the neighborhood of the settlement, and learning what we could of its economy, under the guidance of Green and some of the better informed of the elders; while others, and more particularly some active, dark-eyed young women, got together the various things required for the ship, each bringing a tally to Green of her particular contribution, which he valued and noted. Most of those who left the island in the *Geysler* and the *Galatea* have returned, and the colony at present consists of eighty-four souls in fifteen families, the females being slightly in the majority. Most of the settlers are in some way connected with the Cape of Good Hope; some are Americans. The greater number of the women are mulattoes. Many of the men are engaged in the seal and whale fishery; and as that has now nearly come to an end on their own shores,