

they are generally employed on board American whalers in the Southern seas. We had a good deal of conversation with a son of Governor Glass, a very intelligent, handsome young man, who had been at Kerguelen Land, and at several other whaling stations in the south, and who gave us some useful information. The chief traffic of the islanders is with these American ships, from eight to twelve of which call in passing yearly, to barter manufactured goods and household stuffs for fresh vegetables and potatoes.

The fifteen families possess from five to six hundred head of cattle, and about an equal number of sheep, with pigs and poultry in large numbers. Beef was sold to our mess-man at fourpence a pound, mutton at fourpence, pork somewhat cheaper, and geese at five shillings each, so that the Tristaners, so long as they can command a market—and the number of their occasional visitors is increasing with increasing communication and commerce—can not be considered in any way ill off. Their isolation and their respectability, maintained certainly with great resolution and under trying circumstances, induce a perhaps somewhat unreasonable sympathy for them, which they by no means discourage, and which usually manifests itself in substantial gifts.

The cottages are solid and comfortable. They usually consist of two or three rooms, and are built of a dark-brown tuffaceous stone, which they blast in large blocks from the rocks above, and shape with great accuracy with axes. Many of the blocks are upward of a ton in weight, and they are cut so as to lock into one another in a double row in the thickness of the wall, with smaller pieces equally carefully fitted between them. There is no lime on the island, so that the blocks are fitted on the cyclopean plan, without cement. With all precautions, however, the wind sometimes blows from the south-west with such fury that even these massive dwellings are blown down; and we were assured that the rough blocks, brought from the