

he gets some grazing rights, and the rest of the settlers assist him in fencing his patch, and in working it and preparing it for a first crop. They then contribute the necessary cattle, sheep, potato-seed, etc., to start him; contributions which he no doubt repays when he is in a position to do so, under some definite understanding, for the Tristan Islanders have a very practical knowledge of the value of things. There seems to be a harmonious arrangement among them for assisting one another in their work, such assistance being repaid either in kind or in produce or money. The community is under no regular system of laws; every thing appears to go by a kind of general understanding. When difficulties occur, they are referred to Green, and perhaps to others, and are settled by the general sense. This system is probably another great source of the apparently exceptional morality of the place: in so small a community where all are so entirely interdependent, no misconduct affecting the interests of others can be tolerated or easily concealed, and as there is no special machinery for the detection and punishment of offenses, the final remedy lies in the hands of the men themselves, who are most of them young and stalwart, and well able to keep unruliness in check.

The island of Tristan is almost circular, about seven miles in diameter. The position of Herald Point, close to the settlement, is lat.  $37^{\circ} 2' 45''$  S., long.  $12^{\circ} 18' 30''$  W., so that it nearly corresponds in latitude with the Açores and the southern point of Spain in the northern hemisphere. The island is entirely volcanic; the cliff—upward of a thousand feet high—which encircles it, breached here and there by steep ravines, is formed of thin beds of tuffs and ashes, some of them curiously brecciated with angular fragments of basalt; and layers of lava intersected by numerous dikes of varying widths of a close-grained gray dolerite. The cone is very symmetrical, almost as much so as the Peak of Teneriffe, and the flows of lava down its flanks appear as rugged black ridges through the snow. The