

tends, in several varieties, to the Cape, New Zealand, and Australia.

We heard a curious story at Tristan about two Germans who had settled nearly two years before on Inaccessible Island. Once a year, about the month of December, the Tristan men go to the two outlying islands to pick up the few seals which are still to be found. On two of these occasions they had seen the Germans, and within a few months smoke had risen from the island, which they attributed to their having fired some of the brush; but as they had seen or heard nothing of them since, they thought the probability was that they had perished. Captain Nares wished to visit the other islands, and to ascertain the fate of the two men was an additional object in doing so.

Next morning we were close under Inaccessible Island, the second in size of the little group of three. The ship was surrounded by multitudes of penguins, and as few of us had any previous personal acquaintance with this eccentric form of life, we followed their movements with great interest. The penguin as a rule swims under water, rising now and then and resting on the surface, like one of the ordinary water-birds, but more frequently with its body entirely covered, and only lifting its head from time to time to breathe.

One peculiarity surprised us greatly; for although we were tolerably familiar with the literature of the family, we had never seen it described. The "rock-hopper," and, I am inclined to think, species of other genera besides *Eudyptes*, when in a number in the water, have a constant habit of closing together the legs and tail straight out, laying the wings flat to the sides, arching forward the neck, and, apparently by an action of the muscles of the back, springing forward clear out of the water, showing a steel-gray back and a silvery belly, like a grilse. They run in this way in lines like a school of porpoises, seemingly in play; and when they are thus disporting themselves