

it is really very difficult to believe that one is not watching a shoal of fish pursued by enemies.

In the water, penguins are usually silent, but now and then one raises its head and emits a curious, prolonged croak, startlingly like one of the deeper tones of the human voice. One rarely observes it in the daylight and in the midst of other noises, but at night it is weird enough; and the lonely officer of the middle watch, whose thoughts may have wandered for the moment from the imminent iceberg back to some more genial memory, is often pulled up with a start by that gruff "whaat" along-side in the darkness, close below the bridge.

The structure of this island is very much the same as that of Tristan, only that the pre-eminent feature of the latter, the snowy cone, is wanting. A wall of volcanic rocks, about the same height as the cliff at Tristan, and which one is inclined to believe to have been at one time continuous with it, entirely surrounds Inaccessible Island, falling for the most part sheer into the sea, and it seems that it slopes sufficiently to allow a tolerably easy ascent to the plateau on the top at one point only.

There is a shallow bay, in which the ship anchored in fifteen fathoms, on the east side of the island; and there, as in Tristan, a narrow belt of low ground extending for about a mile along the shore is interposed between the cliff and the sea. A pretty water-fall tossed itself down about the middle of the bay over the cliff from the plateau above. A little way down it was nearly lost in spray, like the Staubbach, and collected itself again into a rivulet, where it regained the rock at a lower level. A hut built of stones and clay, and roofed with spars and thatch, lay in a little hollow near the water-fall; and the two Germans, in excellent health and spirits, but enraptured at the sight of the ship and longing for a passage anywhere out of the island, were down on the beach waiting for the first boat. Their story is a curious one; and as Captain Nares agreed to take them to