

ness and hospitality. They were relieved by the ill-fated *Northfleet*, bound for Aden with coal, and Gustav Stoltenhoff found his way back to Aix.

During his stay at Tristan he heard that large numbers of seals were to be had among the islands, and he seems to have been greatly taken with the Tristaners, and to have formed a project of returning there. When he got home, his brother had just got back from the war and was unemployed, and he infected him with his notion, and the two agreed to join in a venture to Tristan to see what they could make by seal-hunting and barter.

They accordingly sailed for St. Helena in August, 1871, and on the 6th of November left St. Helena for Tristan in an American whaler bound on a cruise in the South Atlantic. The captain of the whaler, who had been often at Tristan d'Acunha, had some doubt of the reception which the young men would get if they went as permanent settlers, and he spoke so strongly of the advantages of Inaccessible Island, on account of the greater productiveness of the soil, and of its being the centre of the seal-fishing, that they changed their plans and were landed on the west side of Inaccessible on the 27th of November—early in summer. A quarter of an hour after, the whaler departed, leaving them the only inhabitants of one of the most remote spots on the face of the earth. They do not seem, however, to have been in the least depressed by their isolation.

The same day the younger brother clambered up to the plateau with the help of the tussock-grass, in search of goats or pigs, and remained there all night, and on the following day the two set to work to build themselves a hut for shelter. They had reached the end of their voyage by no means unprovided, and the inventory of their belongings is curious.

They had an old whale-boat which they had bought at St. Helena, with mast, sails, and oars; three spars for a roof, a door, and a glazed window; a wheelbarrow, two spades and a