

Help was, however, near. Early in August a multitude of penguins landed at a "rookery" hard by their hut—stupid animals, which will scarcely get out of one's way, and are easily knocked down with a stick, and with fleshy breasts, wholesome enough, if with a rather fishy taste; and in the end of August the females began to lay large blue eggs, sufficiently delicate in flavor.

A French bark hove to off the beach in the middle of September, and in her they shipped their seal-skins, and bartered penguins' eggs with her for biscuits and tobacco. Had the bark arrived a week earlier, the brothers would have left the island; but the eggs had set them up again, and they determined to remain a little longer. In October a fore-and-aft schooner, which proved to be the *Themis*, a whaler from the Cape of Good Hope, was seen standing toward the island. A gale of wind blew her off for a couple of days, but she returned and communicated, landing some men from Tristan, who had crossed to see what the hermits were about. Their guests remained a day and a half, and returned to Tristan.

Early in November, that is, early in their second summer, the brothers swam round the eastern headland—Frederick with their blankets, the rifle, and a spare suit of clothes—Gustav with powder, matches, and the kettle in an oil-cask. They mounted by the help of the tussock-grass to the top of the cliff, went over to the west side of the plateau, and built a small hut, where they remained a month, living on goats' flesh and fresh pork. On the 10th of December they returned home, mended their thatch, dug the early potatoes, and put the garden in order.

On the 19th of December the Tristan men made their second sealing expedition. They remained nine days on the island, and killed forty seals, one sea-elephant, and eight of the remaining twelve goats. They left some flour in exchange for an oil-cask, and this was the last communication between the brothers and the outer world until the *Challenger* called, eight months