

to know almost by heart; but they had considerable resources in themselves, in the intelligent interest which they took in the ever-changing appearances of nature.

When the *Challenger* arrived, they were preparing for another summer; but the peculiar food and the want of variety in it were beginning to tell upon them, for all their original stores were exhausted, with the exception of the Epsom-salts, which was untouched, neither of them having had an hour's illness during their sojourn; and they were heartily glad of the chance of a passage to the Cape.

Frederick came to the ship to see us before we left for the south in December. He was then comfortably settled in a situation in a merchant's office in Cape Town, and Gustav was on his way home to see his people before resuming the thread of his roving sailor's life.

We landed after breakfast, and proceeded to explore the strip along the shore. We were anxious to have reached the plateau, but the sea was breaking heavily on the weather coast, and it was considered unsafe to land opposite the practicable ascent in a ship's boat. The hut was built to the extreme left of the strip, close to the water-fall, for the convenience of being near the bountiful supply of pure fresh water yielded by the stream. To the right, for about a quarter of a mile, the ground was broken and uneven—an accumulation of débris from the cliff, covered with a close thicket of well-grown *Phylica arborea* tangled with long grass, and the low branches of the trees overgrown with moss and ferns, the most conspicuous of the latter the handsome *Lomaria robusta*, and the most abundant a spreading *Hymenophyllum* matted over the stones and stumps. The noddy (*Sterna stolidus*) builds loose nests of sticks and leaves in the trees, and the ground and the accumulations of moss and dead leaves among the fragments of rock are honey-combed with the burrows of a gray petrel about the size of a pigeon, of a smaller petrel, and of *Prion vittatus*.