

short and soft and useless for flight. It is common on the plateau, and runs like a partridge among the long grass and ferns, feeding upon insects and seeds. An island hen is also found on Gough Island; but the sealers think it is the same as the Tristan species.

Some of our party returned to the ship about midday, and we cruised round the island, the surveyors plotting in the coastline, and thus filling up a geographical blank, and in the afternoon we dredged in sixty and seventy-five fathoms.

We returned to the anchorage about seven o'clock, and the exploring parties came on board, the Germans accompanying them with all their gear. As we hove in sight of the hut a broad blaze shot up, followed by a dense volume of smoke, and in a few minutes the solitary human habitation on Inaccessible Island was reduced to a heap of ashes. I do not know whether the match was put to the dry straw of the thatch by accident or by design, but the Stoltenhoffs seemed to feel little regret at the destruction of their dwelling. They left the place with no very friendly feelings toward their Tristan neighbors, and had no wish to leave any thing behind them which might be turned to their use.

Early on the morning of Friday, the 17th, we were off Nightingale Island, so named after the Dutch skipper who first reported it. The outline of this island is more varied than that of the other two, and its geological structure is somewhat different. Toward the north end there is a conical peak of a gray, rudely columnar basaltic rock 1105 feet high, and the southern portion of the island, which is more undulating, consists of bedded tufts with included angular fragments of dolerite, like the rocks above the settlement in Tristan. Near the south shore these softer rocks run up into a second lower ridge, and a low cliff bounds the island twenty or thirty feet high, with creeks here and there where boats can land through the surf. In the sea-cliff there are some large caves worn in the friable rock,