

bly; he thinks that there are land and stock enough for a much larger number. He says, "I have little doubt that the peculiar enjoyment and content of the original few settlers has now to a great extent diminished. It depended upon ample space, and abundance, and undisturbed possession. Also, this and the neighboring islands and sea abounded with seals, sea-elephants, and wild goats, which were easily taken, and in very great numbers; and there was an extensive traffic for the few with the whale-ships which then constantly communicated. With the increase of the inhabitants, however, their unbounded freedom was curtailed, as there were more people who had claims to be respected; there were more mouths to feed, and more hands to take part in the seal-hunting, etc., and to share in the traffic ensuing therefrom."

The loss of the traffic with the whalers, and the consequent scarcity of foreign productions, is certainly the great difficulty of the Tristaners; but I doubt if even that is so great as they represent. As I have already said, from eight to twelve ships still call yearly; and as all of them are in want of fresh provisions, and the islanders are very shrewd at a bargain, they probably might easily get all they require. They seemed to us to be fully alive to the advantage of making the worst of things. Notwithstanding his satisfaction with the existing state of matters, Captain Bosanquet makes some suggestions, most of which have been concurred in by the Secretary for the Colonies, although the most important—namely, that the naval officer in command of the South African station should be *ex officio* governor of the island—seemed open to so many objections that it has not been adopted.

A proposal of Lord Carnarvon's to give two hundred pounds' worth of useful presents to the islanders of things which they can not easily obtain from passing ships will no doubt be highly popular. They had, it seems, represented that a clergyman was one of their most urgent needs; an educated man, clerical