

are tidy and have a well-to-do look. Many of the houses belonging to the agents of the Falkland Islands Company and to the representatives of several private firms have very pretty greenhouses attached to them, the gay groups of fuchsias and pelargoniums of all the best home varieties contrasting pleasantly with the desolation outside. The Government barrack, occupied by an officer and a company of marines, is rather an imposing structure, with a square tower, in the middle of the town; and there is a neat little Episcopal church.

The Falkland Islands were first seen by Davis in the year 1592, and Sir Richard Hawkins sailed along their north shore in 1594. In 1598, Sebald de Wert, a Dutchman, visited them, and called them the Sebald Islands, a name which they still bear on some of the Dutch maps. Captain Strong sailed through between the two principal islands in 1690, and called the passage Falkland Sound. In 1763, the islands were taken possession of by the French, who established a colony at Port Louis; they were, however, expelled by the Spaniards in 1767 or 1768. In 1761, Commodore Byron took possession, on the part of England, on the ground of prior discovery, and his doing so was nearly the cause of a war between England and Spain, both countries having armed fleets to contest the barren sovereignty. In 1771, however, Spain yielded the islands to Great Britain by convention. Not having been actually colonized by us, the republic of Buenos Ayres claimed the islands in 1820, and formed a settlement at the old Port Louis, which promised to be fairly successful; but, owing to some misunderstanding with the Americans, it was destroyed by the latter in 1831. After all these vicissitudes, the British flag was once more hoisted at Port Louis in 1833, and since that time the Falkland Islands have been a regular British colony, under a governor. The group was called by the French the Malouines, from the inhabitants of St. Maloes, whom they imagine to have been their first discoverers; and the Spanish name, the Malvinas, the