

Like Tristan d'Acunha, Ascension was first formally occupied by Great Britain as a military station in 1815, during the confinement of the Emperor Napoleon on St. Helena. After the death of Napoleon, it was determined by the Admiralty to make Ascension a dépôt for the refreshment of the African squadron, and a detachment of marines relieved the garrison in 1822.

The climate of Ascension is wonderfully healthy, with pure clear air, an equable temperature, and a perfectly dry soil, without any thing like a swamp or marsh, and with no decaying vegetation. There seem to be none of the usual endemic diseases; and patients suffering from the terrible marsh fevers of the African coast pick up rapidly the moment they are landed. For many years the chief function of Ascension was that of a sanitarium, the hospital below being filled with fever cases landed from the African ships, which were removed as soon as possible to a charming convalescent hospital on Green Mountain.

On one occasion the island paid dearly for its benevolence. In the year 1823, a virulent fever was unfortunately introduced by H.M.S. *Bann*, which carried off nearly half the population.

Of late years, for various reasons, fever has become of so much less frequent occurrence on the African station that the hospitals of Ascension are usually nearly or quite empty. The demand for fresh provisions is, however, an increasing one, and great care is bestowed on the cultivation of the garden and farm on Green Mountain. On a little plateau a few hundred feet below the peak there is a small barrack, with a mess-room; and near it several neat, detached houses with gardens, occupied by marine officers and their families, and the stables and farm-buildings. The large farm-garden—for only a few vegetables and fruits are cultivated, and these in large quantity, for the supply of the station and passing ships—is over the ridge on the south side. Sheep thrive fairly on the shoulder of the