

mountain, which is covered with a fine smooth sward, and planted with sheltering belts and clumps of trees chiefly introduced from Australia—*Eucalyptus* and *Acacia melanoxylon* occupying prominent places—almost like an English park. I do not know a more giddy walk anywhere than round the peak. From the considerable elevation and the small extent of the island, the descent, especially on the south side, looks almost precipitous down to the great rhythmic blue rollers breaking in cataracts of snow-white foam upon the cliffs beneath; and as the wind is always blowing sufficiently hard to make one feel a little unsteady, it takes some little time to get sufficiently accustomed to the conditions to enjoy the view, which is certainly magnificent. The whole island, such as it is, lies at your feet like a strangely exaggerated and unskillfully colored contour map, the great chasms and crater-valleys, even more weird and desolate, looking at them from above; and the wide ocean of the deepest blue, flecked with white by the trade-wind, stretching round beyond to meet the sky in an unbroken and solitary circle.

The great curiosity of Ascension is “Wide-awake Fair;” and although we had seen many such “fairs,” perhaps even more wonderful during the voyage, they are always objects of renewed interest. From Green Mountain, or any of the higher peaks, one can see, lying toward the shore to the right of the road from the settlement, a grayish-white patch some square miles in extent. This is a breeding-place of *Sterna fuliginosa*, called there the Wide-awake. The birds are in millions, darkening the air, when they are disturbed, like smoke; the eggs are excellent—somewhat like a plover’s egg in flavor. Ten thousand dozen are sometimes gathered in the breeding season in a single week; and as they are nearly as large as hen’s eggs, they are of some consideration even as an article of food.

There are at least four other species of sea-birds abundant on the island: the frigate-bird (*Tachypetes aquila*), which