

sides to the apex, but does not really do so, as the slope from the peak, besides being divided by numerous ravines, has on it several small extinct craters. The peak has, so far as is known, never yet been ascended by any one except the sure-footed islanders, although it has been occasionally attempted by others, notably by Lieutenant Rich in 1816 and Commander Nolloth in 1856. It is said to terminate in a cone, consisting of black and deep red lava ashes, in the centre of which is an extinct crater, nearly circular, a quarter of a mile in diameter, now partially filled with fresh water, the depth of which has not been ascertained. There is a depression on one side of the cone, probably the effect of an eruption. In several of the small craters there are also lakes or ponds of fresh water, and some lodes of stiff yellow clay fit for brick making.

It appears curious that the lake in the crater on the summit should not be frozen, as the peak is seldom free from snow; and Lieutenant Rich, in his partial ascent in 1816, found that the thermometer registered  $33^{\circ}$  in the sun, in the middle of the day, in September.

The geographical position of Tristan, long in doubt, was satisfactorily ascertained by Captain Denham in H.M.S. "Herald." The summit is in lat.  $37^{\circ} 5' 50''$  S., long.  $12^{\circ} 16' 40''$  W., and Herald Point, the N.W. angle of the island, an eligible position for obtaining observations, is in lat.  $37^{\circ} 2' 45''$  S., long.  $12^{\circ} 18' 30''$  W.; and here one cannot but refer to the general accuracy of some of the old navigators, especially to the pains taken by some of them to ascertain the position of islands and shores, for Mr. Lewis Fitzmaurice—of H.M.S. "Semiramis," Captain Richardson—remained on shore here, in March 1813, four days taking observations, and made the lat.  $37^{\circ} 5'$  S., long.  $12^{\circ} 11'$  W., variation  $9^{\circ} 51'$  W.; and Captain Wauchope, of H.M.S. "Eurydice," in November 1817, when at anchor 1 mile N.N.E. of the Cascade, made the position of his ship lat.  $37^{\circ} 1'$  S., long., by mean of 20 lunars,  $12^{\circ} 1'$  W., and by chronometer,  $12^{\circ} 23'$  W.

Rising abruptly from the sea as Tristan does, except in one small portion of its circumference, its coast may fitly be described as ironbound. Vessels may approach it to within a mile, or even closer, with perfect safety so far as depth of water is concerned, for the soundings deepen quickly to 100 fathoms, so much so, that boats fishing at anchor in 20 fathoms not infrequently swing into depths exceeding 100 fathoms. Small beaches at the foot of deep ravines afford, with certain winds, landings here and there all round the island, but the adventurous seaman who endeavours thus to explore the coast line will find himself confined entirely to the strip of pebbly ground on which he stands, for the precipitous nature of the cliffs prevents his mounting to the higher land or walking along the base, the only exception being on the strip of comparatively level ground on the northwest side, where the landing is good in all but northerly winds, and from here the highlands may be reached and explored. All round the coast, and in some cases extending a considerable distance from it, grow large quantities of Kelp.