

remained until the 28th November of the same year, when they were relieved by Captain Josiah Cloete of the 21st Regiment of Dragoons, and some troops from the Cape of Good Hope. Captain Cloete then succeeded Lieutenant Rich, as Commandant, and remained until the settlement was finally abandoned by the British Government in November 1817. During his four months' stay on shore Lieutenant Rich kept a journal, from which the following interesting particulars have been extracted:—

The "Falmouth" remained five days in the vicinity of the group, landing stores, provisions, and other necessaries for the men on shore; and during her stay Captain Festing, with a laudable anxiety to explore Tristan Island, started in a gig to pull round it, and the master of the ship sounded out the anchorage, which he named Falmouth Bay, a name which it has since retained, although the original name appears to have been Reception Bay. Captain Festing was unfortunate in his weather, for at 2 P.M. on the day he started, the wind and sea had become strong enough to necessitate his return to his ship, and they increased so rapidly as to threaten the total loss of the boat. After struggling against these adverse circumstances for some hours, Captain Festing perceived that the only chance of safety for his exhausted crew was to endeavour to land, and in this he succeeded at 10 P.M., but not without his boat being capsized, and stove against the rocks, and his crew receiving a considerable number of bruises before they extricated themselves from the surf. Captain Festing and his boat's crew remained in a very unpleasant position on the rocks for two days, living on Penguins, before they could be rescued, for the sea and wind were sufficient to force the "Falmouth" to slip from her anchors to avoid being driven on shore. Fortunately he had means of making a fire with flint and steel, and plenty of Tussock Grass around him to burn, so that they were able to cook their food.

After the "Falmouth" left the group, Lieutenant Rich employed his men in regular working parties, in cutting wood and building huts, in catching fish, in killing and boiling down Sea Elephants for oil, and curing their skins to make caps and moccasins, and in preparing a large piece of ground for the reception of vegetables and cereals.

The fishing parties were always successful; they fished with hook and line from a boat at anchor. The party cutting wood and building the huts met with some difficulties owing to the smallness of the trees, there being only one species of tree on the islands (*Phyllica nitida*), the wood of which is weak and small. After the first hut was built and the stores removed into it, they found that continuous rain for a day made their thatch of Tussock Grass so heavy that it bent the uprights on which the roof rested, consequently they had to begin their work over again, and build smaller huts, which they floored with staves of casks and other materials.

The agricultural party cleared a large patch of ground, and planted some wheat, potatoes, and a large quantity of cabbages, in addition to the ground already under cultivation by Thomas Currie, who had grown a considerable number of potatoes, cabbages, and carrots, which had a most healthy appearance.