With respect to men-of-war calling, there need be no apprehension of danger. Gales of wind are, of course, common at all seasons, but the islanders can nearly always communicate with ships if they stand close in, and now-a-days, with steam ever at command, there is no chance of a vessel sharing the "Julia's" fate. One precaution should, however, always be taken by vessels anchoring—steam should invariably be kept up, and the cable ready for slipping at a moment's warning.

The cliffs of the main island show a very regular stratification, and are composed throughout of a series of beds lying nearly horizontally, but dipping slightly towards the shores, at least they appear to do so east and west of the anchorage. The beds, which are conspicuously marked, are alternately of hard basalt and looser scoriaceous lava, with occasional beds of a red tufa. The whole section is traversed by numerous dikes, mostly

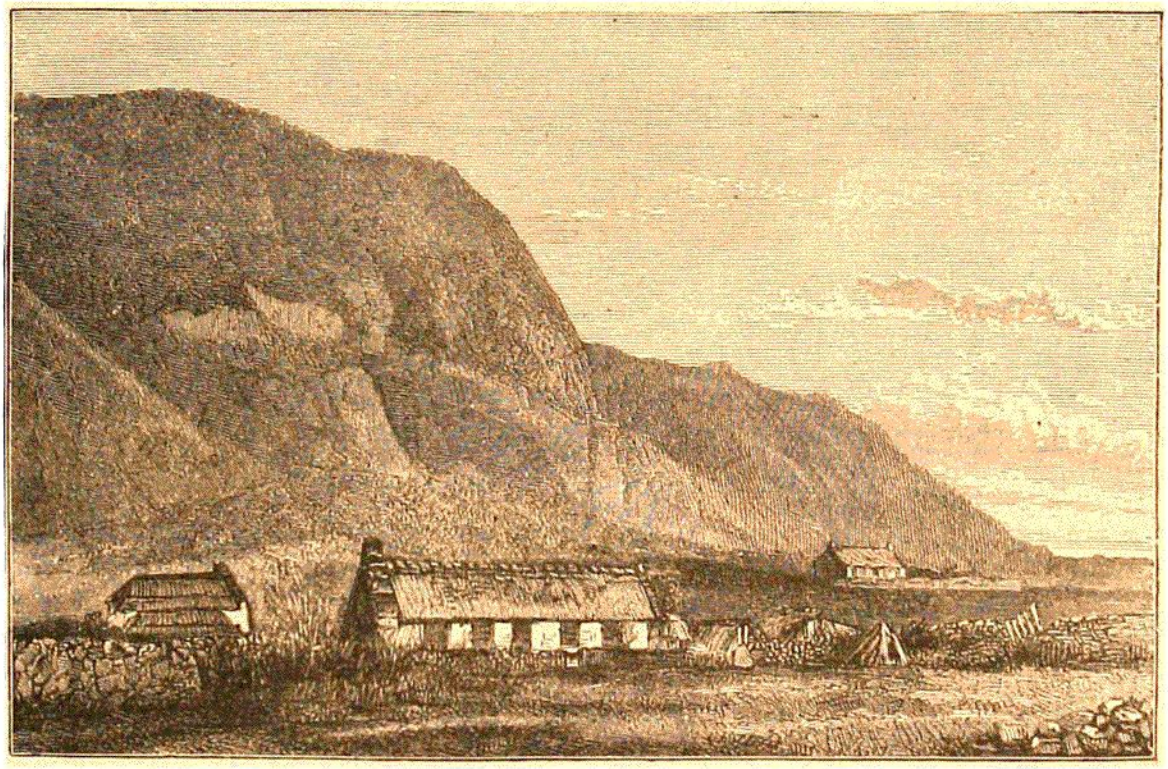

FIG. 99.—Settlement of "Edinburgh," Tristan da Cunha. (*From a Photograph.*)

vertical and usually narrow in appearance, and is not unlike that exposed in the Grand Cural at Madeira. The rock specimens collected were large grained felspathic basalts sometime bordered with layers of black basaltic glass (sideromelan) passing to palagonite, basaltic tufa, augite-andesite, pyroxenite, and amphibolic andesite containing sanidine.

Streams, or rather cascades, which come dashing down to the sea during the constant heavy rains, have eaten their way into the cliffs, and their beds form conspicuous features in the view as narrow gullies, descending the rocks in a series of irregular steps. At the foot of the cliffs, immediately opposite the anchorage, are débris slopes and irregular rocky and sandy ground, forming a narrow strip of low shore land.

The settlement lies on a broader and more even stretch of low land which extends