

l'Esperance," in the hope that this island would prove an outlying sentinel of the Antarctic continent, which was then being constantly sought for, and the necessity for the existence of which was firmly fixed in the minds of the geographers of that age. M. Marion tried for anchorage without success, and after remaining five days in the vicinity, abandoned his researches owing to the loss of the bowsprit and a mast of his consort "*Le Castries*," and some sails in his own ship "*Le Mascarin*."

These islands were next sighted on the 12th December 1776 by Captain Cook, who sailed between them, and not knowing the names given to them by M. Marion, called them the "*Prince Edward Islands*," which designation is still retained by the northern and smaller of the two.

From the year 1776 to the present time both islands have been much frequented by whalers and sealers, who as early as 1802 had establishments on shore on both islands; for Captain Fanning in the narrative of his voyages mentions them as if they were well known at that date. Sir James Ross received information to the effect that whaling vessels sometimes anchored off the east side of Prince Edward Island in 8 or 10 fathoms, with the cave W.N.W., the N.E. point N.E. by E., and the S.E. or Mary's Point S.W. $\frac{1}{2}$ S.

From the records of M. Marion, Captain Cook, Sir J. Ross, and Captain Cecille, and the survey of the *Challenger*, the following account of these islands has been compiled:—

Marion Island, the southern and larger of the two, is 33 miles round; in shape an irregular parallelogram, whose sides are east and west, and N.E. by N. and S.W. by S., the sides running east and west averaging 11 miles in length, and the others 7 miles, with an area of 70 square miles, its summit rising upwards of 4200 feet above the level of the sea. Its geographical position has now been well ascertained, for good observations were obtained on shore by the *Challenger's* surveying officers. It lies between the parallels of $46^{\circ} 48' S.$, and $46^{\circ} 56' S.$ latitude, and the meridians of $37^{\circ} 35'$ and $37^{\circ} 54' E.$ longitude. The observation spot close to the landing place just west of the N.E. point of the island is in lat. $46^{\circ} 49' 30'' S.$, long. $37^{\circ} 49' 22'' E.$, and Boot Rock, a remarkable islet off its north end, in lat. $46^{\circ} 48' N.$, long. $37^{\circ} 43' 45'' E.$ (see Sheet 19).

Prince Edward Island, the northern and smaller, is 15 miles round, circular in shape, with an area of 16 square miles. Its summit rises to the height of 2370 feet, and it lies between the parallels of $46^{\circ} 34'$ and $46^{\circ} 39' S.$ latitude, and the meridians of $37^{\circ} 53'$ and $38^{\circ} 1' E.$ longitude. On its northern side are three detached rocks (Ross Rocks), and on its eastern side a remarkable cave. Seen from the westward it shows a rounded summit, the land sloping gradually to the southward and terminating in a precipitous cliff about 1500 feet in height. On the north side the slope is more abrupt, and the north point is a wedge-shaped hill, which from a distance appears detached from the island; this hill is but slightly higher than the Ross Rocks which lie off it.

Both islands are surrounded by kelp, of which there is considerably more on the