

vessel, the "Catherine," Captain Henry Fanning, landed a gang of sealers on Possession Island, since which time the group has been constantly visited at intervals by these adventurous navigators. In 1820 a cutter called the "Princess of Wales" was wrecked on Possession Island whilst engaged in the seal fishing, and from one of her crew named Charles Goodridge an interesting account of their two years' residence was obtained and published in 1833.¹ Previously to 1820, hogs were landed on the island which now bears that name, but by whom or how is doubtful, and Goodridge relates that large numbers of them were seen in that year. In 1838 the islands were visited by Captain Cecille of the French sloop "Heroine," which vessel had been despatched to assist and report on the French deep-sea fisheries. Captain Cecille anchored in Navire Cove, which he surveyed, and he also fixed the position and made a running survey of all the islands. Captain Cecille found on Possession Island the crews of two American vessels, which had been lost, and a French ship, the "Bordelais," in Navire Bay.

In 1840 the group was visited by Sir James Ross in the "Erebus," who found a sealing party of eleven men on Possession Island, one of whom had been there three years.

Since the visit of the Challenger the Apostles Islands have been the scene of a terrible calamity, the wreck of the "Strathmore," in July 1875, which has resulted in the group being visited by H.M.S. "Wolverene" on her passage to Australia. From the several descriptions published from time to time, and from information received from the whalers and sealers at Kerguelen, the following account of the islands has been drawn up:—

The Crozet Islands are situated between the parallels of $46^{\circ} 0'$ and $46^{\circ} 35'$ S. latitude, and the meridians of $50^{\circ} 20'$ and $52^{\circ} 20'$ E. longitude, and they may be said to consist of two groups, an eastern and western. The western group consists of four islands, lying in a north and south direction from each other—the two Apostles, Hog, and Penguin or Inaccessible Island, and the Heroine Breakers; the eastern group consists of Possession and East or Aride Islands, with a few outlying rocks in no case exceeding a distance of 3 miles from the shore. Hog Island is round-backed, the summit rising to an elevation of certainly 2000 feet above the level of the sea; the north point is a perpendicular cliff some 200 feet in height, the south point being low, with several detached rocks close off it. Against its western shore the constant westerly swell breaks violently, rendering landing impossible on that side; on the leeward or eastern side it is occasionally accessible, but even here it is frequently very dangerous, as the rollers often come round both ends, and even the experienced crews of whaling boats are sometimes swamped and drowned. There were no pigs in 1873, but the whole place was overrun with rabbits. The Apostles Islands do not exceed 500 feet in height; they are only separated by a narrow chasm, and have the appearance of being a number of islands from seaward owing to their rising in detached boulder-like peaks, twelve in number, hence their

¹ Narrative of a Voyage to the South Seas, &c., by C. M. Goodridge. London, Hamilton & Adams, 1833.