

In 1814, during the revolutionary wars on the South American continent, the Spaniards withdrew the garrison from Juan Fernandez, destroying, when they left, all the valuable trees, such as sandalwood,¹ &c. In a moment of victory during these wars, the Spanish royalist Osorio banished to the island a number of Chilian patriots, who were afterwards, when fortune favoured their side, brought back to Chili with much triumph and exultation.

Shortly after 1818 Juan Fernandez was utilised as a state prison, and the Chilian Government sent such convicts there as were condemned to hard labour. In 1824 there appear to have been three hundred convicts on the island, guarded by one hundred regular troops. In that year the valleys of the island were swarming with wild cattle, horses, hogs, sheep, and goats, and vegetables and fruit were abundant, consisting of radishes, water cresses, parsley, turnips, purslain, apples, pears, peaches, plums, apricots, figs, cherries, and strawberries; but the Fur Seals and the Elephant Seals found formerly in such abundance had almost wholly disappeared. Fish was, however, as plentiful as ever.

In 1830, when Juan Fernandez was visited by H.M.S. "Adventure," Captain P. P. King, there were no convicts, but the island was rented from the Chilian Government by Don Joachim Larrain for fishing purposes. His establishment consisted of forty persons, who caught and dried the fish for the Chilian market, particularly the rock lobsters, the tails of which when cured are much esteemed and fetch a high price in Chili. At the time of Captain King's visit no supplies could be procured except wild goats, wild peaches, figs, and fish, the cattle so abundant in 1824 having entirely disappeared, but in what manner does not appear to be known. As vessels frequently touched at the island, particularly whalers, the establishment of forty persons might naturally have been expected to cultivate the land, grow vegetables and fruit, &c., but their first effort to raise potatoes having been defeated by the destructive ravages of a worm, they discontinued their agricultural pursuits.

In 1833 Juan Fernandez was again utilised as a convict station by the Chilian Government, and in that year a number of prisoners took possession, during the night, of a French brig that had called at the island for supplies, and compelled the crew to take them to Chiloe.

In 1835 the island appears to have been governed by a Mr. T. Sutcliffe, an Englishman in the Chilian service. He was present when the earthquake took place on the 20th February of that year, of which he gives the following account:—"At 11.30 A.M. the sea rose over the mole and afterwards retired, leaving the greater part of Cumberland Bay dry, so much so that old anchors on the bottom became visible; the earth then began to shake violently, and a tremendous explosion was heard, the sea still receding in immense rollers, which afterwards returned violently, rising to such a height that the

¹ See Bot. Chall. Exp., part iii. pp. 11 *et seq.*, 1885.