

settlement was literally covered and washed away, when the sea again receded. This phenomenon occurred four times, causing much destruction, uprooting trees and drowning cattle. Shortly after the explosion, a large column somewhat resembling a water-spout was seen ascending from the sea off Point Bacalao, which proved to be smoke, but at 7 P.M. volcanic flames were visible through the smoke, which lasted until 2 A.M. on the 21st. The depth of water on the spot where these eruptions took place was from 50 to 80 fathoms, and no alteration in the depth was detected the day after the eruption had subsided."

In this year there appear to have been 200 persons on the island altogether, including a detachment of sixty-eight soldiers. In August of the same year an insurrection amongst the convicts took place, and the Governor was deposed by the Commandant of troops. At this time there were again both cattle and pigs on the island, and portions of land were distributed amongst the convicts for cultivation. In November 1835 a Captain Masters called in at Cumberland Bay on a voyage to Mazatlan, and purchased sheep for four dollars each, and bullocks for fourteen dollars. In this month there were seventy soldiers and 319 prisoners on the island, a small number of the latter being women. Shortly after 1835 Juan Fernandez was abandoned as a convict settlement, and since that time has been rented by the Chilian Government to such persons as cared to occupy it for the benefit of fishing and supplying the whalers (about twenty-five annually) that call in with fresh provisions.

In 1866, when H.M.S. "Topaze" called at the island, there were only ten inhabitants, and the Challenger found about forty or fifty under the control of a Chilian who paid £200 a year rent to the Chilian Government, and who had a few men also at Mas-a-fuera Island; he was engaged principally with the hunting of the Fur Seals.

The island of Juan Fernandez is thirteen miles in length and four in breadth, with a total area of 28 square miles, and has off its southwest point an islet named "Santa Clara," or "Goat," one mile and a half in length by one mile in breadth, between which and Juan Fernandez is a channel one mile across, with a depth of 19 fathoms in its centre. It is rugged and mountainous, the highest mountain, named "El Yunque," or "the Anvil," being 3000 feet above the level of the sea. This mountain is almost if not quite inaccessible, and appears never to have been ascended, although a reward was at one time offered to the convict who should succeed in arriving at its summit, but the steep nature of the narrow spurs that descend from it has hitherto rendered them impassable, notwithstanding the trees that abound. The trees in Juan Fernandez are in fact no aid to the explorer, for the soil is so light and shallow, that large trees soon perish for want of root and are easily overturned, several people having lost their lives by trusting to them for support; it should therefore be impressed on all explorers that they should here carefully abstain from trusting to the foliage in dangerous places. There is a beaten path