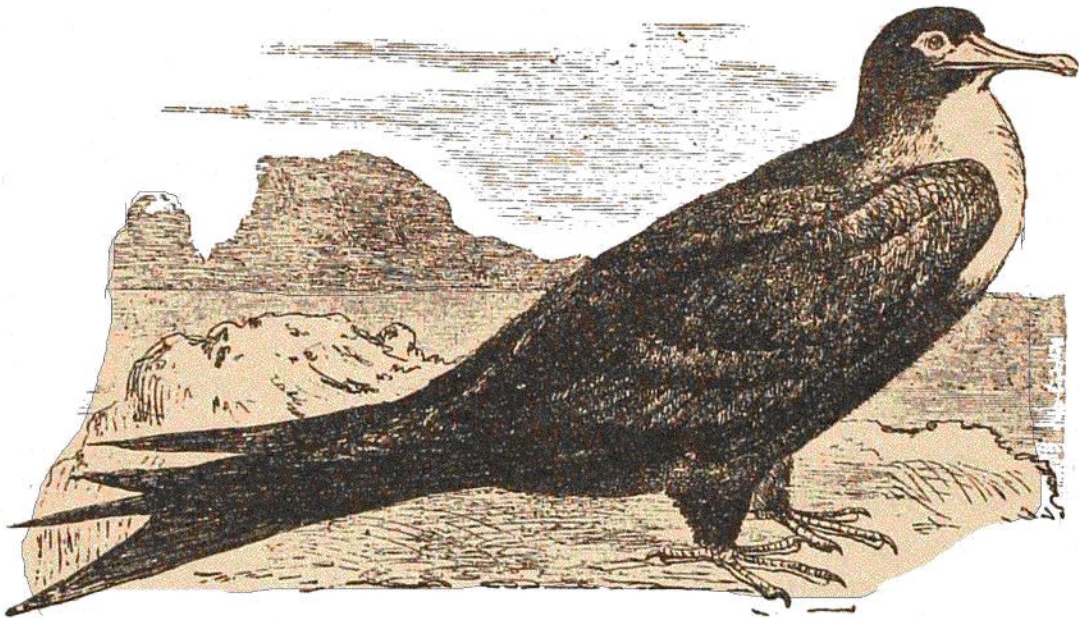


in height. It is comparatively inaccessible, and owing to its steepness has never been cultivated; hence it seemed likely to yield a fair sample of the indigenous flora of the group. Most of the plants collected proved, when examined at Kew, to be common Brazilian forms, but a fig tree (*Ficus noronhæ*) with pendent aerial roots like the banyan, which grew all over the upper parts of the rock, and which in favourable spots forms a tree 30 feet in height, proved to be of a new species and peculiar to the island, as far as is yet known.*

The only land birds which I saw on the island were the doves, but I saw a nest, probably that of a finch. The principal bird inhabitants of the island were boobies and noddies



FRIGATE BIRD. TACHYPETES AQUILA.

of the same species as at St. Paul's Rocks, but far shyer here than there, and boatswain birds and frigate birds (*Tachypetes aquila*). These latter soared high overhead, looking, with their forked tails, like large kites.

All these birds nest on the rock. They circled round our heads in vast numbers as we stood on the top of the rock. The frigate birds put their nests here well out of harm's way, on the very verge of a precipice which was quite inaccessible. I could look down and see the nests, five or six of which were built close together, almost touching one another, and each containing a single egg.

On the low cliffs of Booby Island, the noddies and boobies nest on all the available ledges, and sat on their nests quite undisturbed as we rowed past them. It was curious to see the

* *Ficus noronhæ*. D. Oliver, F. R. S., "Icones Plantarum," Vol. III., 3rd Ser., p. 18, pl. 1222.