

## CHAPTER V.

### *TRISTAN DA CUNHA, INACCESSIBLE ISLAND, NIGHTINGALE ISLAND.*

Settlement of the Island. Geological Structure. Vegetation. Temperature of Fresh Water. *Phylica arborea*. Rigorous Climate. Condition of the Settlers. Inaccessible Island. Rock-hopper Penguins. Tussock Grass. Penguin Rookeries. Peculiar Land Birds. Noddies and other Sea Birds. Southern Skuas. Wild Swine. Change of Habits of Penguins. Nightingale Island. Vast Penguin Rookery. Seal Caves. Rocks Worn by the Feet of the Penguins. Mollymauks and their Nests. Derivation of Seamen's Names for Southern Animals. Dogs run Wild in a Penguin Rookery. Migrations of Penguins and Seals. Insects, etc., of the Group. Flowering Seasons. Sea Beans. Relations of the Flora.

**Tristan da Cunha, Oct. 15th, 1873.**—The ship arrived at Tristan da Cunha on October 15th. The island of Tristan da Cunha is one of a group composed of three, the other two being called Nightingale and Inaccessible Islands. Besides these, another small island, Gough Island, lies about 200 miles to the south and somewhat to the east of Tristan da Cunha, and from its vegetation would seem to be naturally included in the group.

Tristan da Cunha itself lies in Lat.  $37^{\circ} 2' 48''$  S., Long.  $12^{\circ} 18' 20''$  W., distant westward from the Cape of Good Hope, 1,550 miles, and about one-third farther from Cape Horn, lying nearly on a line drawn between the two Capes; it lies 1,320 miles south of St. Helena. The island is about 16 square miles in area,\* it is nearly circular in form, its highest point is 8,326 feet above sea level.

The latest information concerning the inhabitants of the island, extant at the time of our visit, is to be found in the "Cruise of H.M.S. 'Galatea,'" p. 28 (London, Allen & Co., 1869). In this account reference is made to the various men-

\* I regret exceedingly, that owing to ignorance of the nature of a German geographical square mile, I concluded that Grisebach had, in his "Veg. der Erde," made an error in describing the area of Tristan as two geographical square miles, and that I stated this in "Journ. Linn. Soc." Bot., Vol. XIV., p. 328.