

low land which extends westwards. In the margin of this lower tract a small low secondary cliff has been formed by the waves. Steep débris slopes lead from the cliffs above to the settlement tract, and the cliffs are here and there broken into ledges and deep gullies, by which ascent to the summit is easy.

At the landing-place the beach is formed of black volcanic sand, but elsewhere in the neighbourhood, of coarse basaltic boulders. At the summit of the Peak, as the inhabitants told us, is a crater basin with a lake at the bottom of it. From their description given, it appears that there is something like the Cānadas of the Peak of Tenerife around the terminal crater.

The cliffs have a scanty covering of green, derived mainly from grasses, sedges, mosses, and ferns, with darker patches of the peculiar trees of the island (*Phyllica arborea*), and the crowberry (*Empetrum nigrum var. rubrum*). These dark patches become more and more marked towards the summit. Conspicuous patches of bright green are formed under the cliffs at the foot of the watercourses by a dock (*Rumex*). Further dotted about amongst the other herbage are rounded tufts of pale bluish-green, consisting of the tall reed-like grass (*Spartina arundinacea*), which is peculiar to the Tristan da Cunha group and Amsterdam Island.

On nearer inspection the damp foot of the cliff is found to be covered with mosses and liverworts, which latter form, in favourable situations, continuous green sheets covering the earth beneath the grass.

Two ferns, an *Asplenium* (*A. obtusatum*, *Forst.*), growing in the clefts of the rocks just as does our home *A. marinum*, and *Lomaria alpina* are most abundant under the cliffs. The *Lomaria* plants where situate on stony slopes, and comparatively starved, were all provided with fertile fronds, whilst those growing in rich vegetable mould were commonly without fructification.

The commonest flowering plants under the cliffs are *Apium australe*, wild celery, almost the same as the common garden plant abundant here, in Tierro del Fuego, and in the Falkland Islands: the crowberry: the common sow-thistle, a cosmopolitan weed: and a plant with strongly scented leaves (*Chenopodium tomentosum*), which is used as tea by the islanders, a decoction of the leaves being drunk with milk and sugar. The islanders call it "tea."

Creeping amongst the damp moss, is a small narrow-leaved plant with small bright red berries (*Nertera depressa*).

The streams which run down the cliffs, and which vary from violent dashing cascades in rain time, to narrow rills fed