

anchor at all. Hence no one of our party was allowed to go for more than half an hour out of sight of the ship, nor for a distance of more than an hour's walk from the settlement.

I botanized under the cliffs on the lowland in the morning, and intended to reserve the upper plateau and cliff ascent for the afternoon, but as I was making my way up the steep slope above the settlement in the afternoon at about 3 or 4 o'clock, suddenly a dark squall came scudding over the sea, and rapidly reaching us, and climbing the hill-side, chilled us to the bone. My guide, a small boy, born and bred in the island, crouched down instantly under the tall grass and fern, lying on his side, drawing up his legs, tucking in his head, and screwing himself down into the grass like a hare into her form. We followed his example, and found that the perfection of the shelter to be thus obtained from such scanty herbage was astonishing.

The squall being felt at the anchorage, up went the recall flag on board the ship, and as soon as the hail ceased I had to hurry down to the shore, without having ascended the mountain side for more than 500 feet. I was only able to secure a specimen of the tree fern (*Lomaria boryana*), which grows in the islands, and is common also in the Falkland Islands and Fuegia, and at the Cape of Good Hope.

The boy was peculiarly taciturn, and, like all the islanders, extremely curt in his language, and very independent. Like most of the others he showed a strong Yankee twang in the little I got him to say, and he seemed to have considerable difficulty in understanding what I said to him in ordinary English, and indeed often not to be able to understand at all.

Having heard that there were penguins in the island, but at some distance, and not to be approached without wading, I had offered a reward of £1 for a pair, with their eggs. I found them ready for me in one of the huts, and I paid for them. Had I known what countless numbers I was so soon to be amongst I should not have made such an offer, but I have found in the long run that, on a voyage like this, where there is so much uncertainty, it is always best to take the very first opportunity, and I always landed on the places we visited with the very first boat, even if it were only for an hour in the evening. It may come on to blow, and another chance may never occur. I strongly advise any naturalist similarly situated to do the same.

The cottages of the Tristan people are built of huge blocks of a soft red tuff, fitted together without mortar, and are thatched with tussock grass. They are all low one-storied houses, with small enclosures formed with low stone walls