

about them, in which a few vegetables are grown, and pigs and geese roam about. The potato fields are all walled for shelter from the wind. A large quantity of potatoes are grown, and form the principal source of food.

The islanders had about 400 or 500 head of cattle and about as many sheep. They often lose cattle in the very cold weather from exposure. There is no horse on the island. Formerly there were numbers of wild rabbits, but they are now almost, if not quite, extinct, as are certainly the wild goats and pigs, which have been entirely killed off.

The Sea Elephants (*Morunga elephantina*) have almost entirely deserted the island. The last was seen two years before our visit on the beach, just below the settlement. Seals are seldom seen on the island. The islanders make yearly visits to Inaccessible and Nightingale Islands in pursuit of seals, but these are becoming scarcer every year.

A mouse lives about the houses in the settlement, but there is no rat on the island.

This I gathered from conversation with some of the islanders in one of the cottages, the walls of which were decorated all over with pictures from illustrated newspapers. Several of the women were dark, of mixed race, from the Cape of Good Hope.

On the way down to the beach I saw two willow bushes growing in the stream running down from the settlement. The stream has cut deeply into the alluvial soil, and the willows, here entirely sheltered from the wind, thrive well. They could only grow in such a place.

We got geese, sheep, beef, and potatoes from the Tristan people, who knew well how to charge the full value for everything. They are all sharp at a bargain, and as on an average twelve ships visit them each year, or one a month, they manage to live pretty comfortably without working very hard.

Four or five of them who came on board to receive the money for the provisions, stayed as long as ever they could, till the ship was well under way, begging for all sorts of things, such as matches and copybooks for their children, and putting down all the drink they could get. They never have any store of strong drinks on shore, because when any spirits are landed the liquor is cleared out at once in a single bout. At last the men went over the side, and we made off for Inaccessible Island, where, as we heard from the Tristan people, there were two Germans, who might be in distress.

The appearance of Tristan da Cunha, as seen in the distance, is very remarkable. The snowy peak up in the clouds shows out far above the high dark plateau, with its precipitous cliffs everywhere leading down to the sea.