

Inaccessible Island, October 16th, 1873.—The ship moved over to Inaccessible Island and kept close under its high cliffs all night.

Inaccessible Island lies W. by S. $\frac{1}{2}$ S. of Tristan, distant about 23 miles, *i.e.*, from the Peak of Tristan to the centre of Inaccessible Island. The island is about $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles in length, from east to west, and about 2 miles broad, 4 square miles in area. The highest point of the island is 1,840 feet in altitude. We anchored on the north-east side.

All night the penguins were to be heard screaming on shore and about the ship, and as parties of them passed by, they left vivid phosphorescent tracks behind them as they dived through the water alongside.

In the morning we had a view of the island. It presented on this side a range of abrupt cliffs, about 1,000 feet in height, of much the same structure as those of Tristan, *viz.*, successive layers of basalt, traversed by vertical or oblique dykes, but mostly by narrow vertical ones. At the foot of the cliffs are some very steep débris slopes extending in one place a long way up the cliff, but not so as to render the ascent possible.

In front of these stretches a strip of narrow uneven ground, formed of large detached rocks and detritus from the cliffs above, which terminates seawards in a beach of black boulders and large pebbles. In one place, where the cliff is somewhat lower than elsewhere, there is a waterfall, which at the time of our visit was scantily supplied with water, but from the marks left by it on the rocks and vegetation, evidently attains much greater dimensions in rainy weather. The cascade pours right down from the high cliff above into a dark pool of peaty water on the beach below. The rocks about its course are covered with mosses and green incrusting plants.

The face of the cliff generally is sprinkled over with green, the vegetation consisting principally of tussock grass (*Spartina arundinacea*), *Apium graveolens* (a small sedge), *Sonchus oleraceus* (Sow thistle), *Rumex* (Dock), and ferns: with dark green patches of *Phyllica arborea* on the débris slopes and ledges. The strip of accessible lower shore land is mostly covered with a dense growth of tall grass, called by the Tristan people "tussock," but quite different in structure from the well-known tussock of the Falklands, though in outward habit resembling it very closely.

Amongst the grass are several patches or small coppices of *Phyllica arborea* trees, which keep the ground beneath them free from tussock, it being covered instead with a thick growth of sedges, ferns, and mosses, which form an elastic carpet on the dark peaty soil. Amongst the moss creeps *Nertera depressa*,