

with its bright red berries, and the Potentilla-like *Acena ascendens* grows here and there together with the "tea-plant" of the islanders.

The stems and branches of the *Phyllica* trees are covered with lichens in tufts and variously coloured crusts, and the branches of the trees meeting overhead, these little islands as it were, in the seas of tall grass, afford most pleasant shady retreats, which seem a perfect paradise after the terrible struggle and fight through the penguin rookery, which it is necessary to endure in order to reach them.

In the early morning, we made out with a glass two men standing on the shore gazing at the ship. The Captain went on shore first, and brought off the men, who proved to be the two Germans we had heard of at Tristan da Cunha. They were overjoyed at the chance of escape from the island; we gave them breakfast, and heard something of their story.

They both spoke English, one of them remarkably well. They were brothers; one of them had been an officer in the German army during the war, the other one a sailor. They had got landed at Inaccessible Island by a whaling vessel, in the hope that they would be able to make a considerable sum by killing fur seals, and taking their skins. They had been bitterly disappointed.*

After breakfast, I landed with one of the Germans as guide with a large party. We passed through a broad belt of water, covered with the floating leaves of the wonderful seaweed *Macrocystis pirifera*, which here, as at Tristan and Nightingale Island, forms a sort of zone around the greater part of the island, and of which we afterwards saw so much at Kerguelen's Land.

As we approached the shore, I was astonished at seeing a shoal of what looked like extremely active very small porpoises or dolphins. I could not imagine what the things could be, unless they were indeed some most marvellously small Cetaceans; they showed black above and white beneath, and came along in a shoal of fifty or more from seawards towards the shore at a rapid pace, by a series of successive leaps out of the water, and splashes into it again, describing short curves in the air, taking headers out of the water and headers into it again; splash, splash, went this marvellous shoal of animals, till they went splash through the surf on to the black stony beach, and

* For an account of the sojourn of the Germans in the island, and valuable particulars as to the habits of the various birds, see an article by Mr. R. Richards, Paymaster, H.M.S. "Challenger," "Two Years on Inaccessible," in the "Cape Monthly Magazine," Dec., 1873. Cape Town; J. C. Juta.