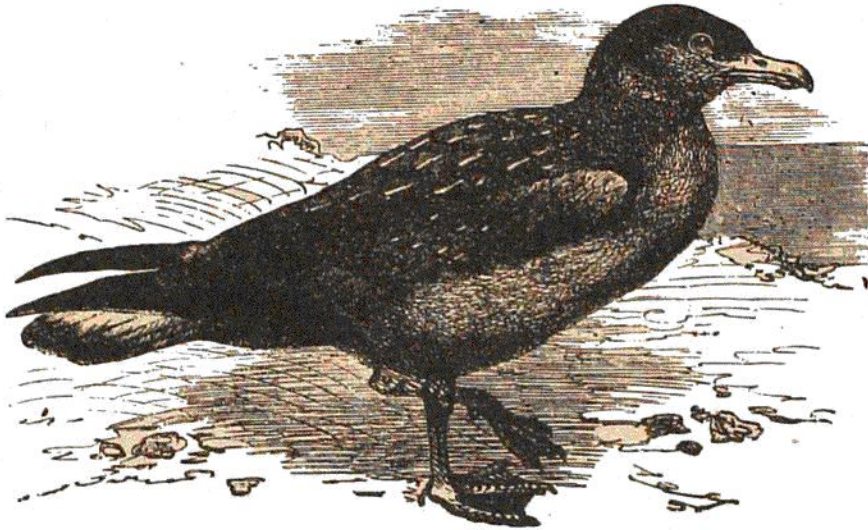


that of most of the typical birds of prey. We met with the bird constantly afterwards on our southern voyage, as far down even as the Arctic Circle ; and a specimen was noticed by Ross further south still, in Possession Island.

The hut of the Germans was a comfortable one of stone, thatched with tussock, and with a good frame window and door, and comfortable bunks to sleep on. There used to be wild goats on the top of Inaccessible Island, and there are still plenty of wild pigs. The feral pigs were, as the Germans told me, of various colouring, and showed no tendency to uniformity ; but the goats were almost invariably black, only one or two had a few white markings about head, neck, and chest. The sows used to be seen with litters of seven or eight young, but in a few days the number dwindled to one or two ; the sows probably eating their young. The young suffered often



BRITISH SKUA, STERCORARIUS CATARRACTES.

from a sort of scrofula, in which the glands about the neck became much enlarged.

The pigs now remaining are mostly boars : they are very hairy and have long tusks. The hogs are fierce, and one of the Germans told me that one once regularly hunted him, as if to attempt to kill him for food. The pigs feed mainly on birds and their eggs, but eat also the roots of the tussock and wild celery ; they have nearly exterminated a penguin rookery on the south side of the island, but a few penguins remain, who have learnt to build in holes under stones, where the pigs cannot reach them.

This fact is curious, as showing how easily circumstances may arise, such, that in an island even so small as Inaccessible, one colony of birds may develop a totally new habit, whilst other colonies of the same species preserve their original cus-