

beds and conglomerates. This layer is evidently a lava flow of comparatively late date, as it seems to have run down the valley between the two ridges, and to have come from the south; its upper surface is a little rounded, higher in the centre, and thinning off at the edges, as may be seen in the section exposed in the cliff.

It is on the almost level upper surface of this flow that the *great penguin rookery* lies. The island has evidently, like Inaccessible Island, undergone immense denudation, and there is no trace of any centres of action remaining. In the low cliffs of the coast, numerous caves are formed by the eating out by waves of the softer strata underlying the hard cap of basalt.

The caves, are so numerous as to form a striking feature in the appearance of the island as it is approached from seawards; such caves are not apparent at Inaccessible or Tristan da Cunha Islands.

The caves, with the sloping ledges leading up to them, are frequented as was said by fur seals. Four years before 1,400 seals had been killed on the island by one ship's crew; they are much scarcer now, but the island is visited regularly once a year by the Tristan people, as is also Inaccessible Island. The Germans only killed seven seals at Inaccessible Island, but the Tristan people killed forty there in December, 1872. Two seals were seen by us in the water about the rocks, but none on land.

The sloping rock ledges are covered with a thin coating of dark green ulva, which, when dry, has a peculiar almost metallic glance. A short scramble up the rocks brought us at once face to face with the tall grass and penguins.

The party broke up into small groups, each choosing what it thought the best route for penetrating the enemy's country. I made along the rocks to the point where, as I had seen from the ship, the main street ended: here were hundreds of penguins coming from and going to the sea in droves, or hurrying along singly to catch up some drove, or lolling about on the rocks, basking; the moving ones going along hop, hop, hop, just like men in a sack race.

The hard rock was actually polished, and had its irregularities smoothed off where the feet of the birds had worn it down at the entrance to the street. No doubt the Diatom skeletons present in the food and dung of the penguins, and always in abundance in the mud of their rookeries, adhering to their dirty feet, act as polishing powder and assist the wearing process.

The street did not open by a single definite mouth towards