

Kerguelen cabbage,* is, at least in the part of the island explored, by no means so abundant as at Kerguelen's Land. It was some time before a plant was found; but subsequently a good many were met with, but not growing in groups of more than four or five plants. Some were found on the very verge of the shore, within reach of the spray, and the rest on the banks of a small rivulet. The cabbage was mostly in full flower and bud, with sepals and anthers complete. No plants were found with seed at all ripe. The last year's seeds were decayed. This plant at least would appear to have a regular summer flowering-season, since Sir Joseph Hooker found only the fruit at Kerguelen's Land in the winter.

Of the ferns the *Lomaria alpina* is the most conspicuous, forming thick and wide patches amongst the *Acena* and grass, and occurring abundantly everywhere. *Aspidium mohriodes* was found growing under sheltered banks beside the small stream together with the other three ferns.

Hymenophyllum tunbridgense, the British species, and *Polypodium australe* grow abundantly on the sheltered sides of the projecting rock-masses already mentioned, but are dwarfed and almost hidden amongst the mosses. They grow in greatest luxuriance on the damp banks of the stream.

The mosses are in most striking abundance,† and, in some very wet places, form continuous sheets over the ground many square yards in extent. Lichens are not in very great quantity, except the incrusting forms, which are tolerably abundant on the rocks.

An attempt was made to reach the actual upper limit of vegetation, but failed from being commenced too late in the day. The ascent was up the bed of the small stream already mentioned, which lay at the verge of one of the modern lava-flows, where it abutted on a low cliff exposing a more ancient flow in section. The more recent flow had a very gradual inclination of not more than 8°. The first scattered patches of snow were encountered at about an elevation of 800 feet. A patch of the cabbage was met with at 1,000 feet.

The highest point reached was at about 1,500 feet elevation. Here *Ranunculus biternatus* had disappeared, and where growing a little lower down was very much dwarfed. The *Azorella*, with a few mosses, formed the principal vegetation; but the green was merely dotted over the bare rock and stones. The patches of snow were here frequent. The *Azorella*

* For an account of this plant and figure, see under Kerguelen's Land, p. 167.

† Thirty-one species were collected, five of which are described by Mr. Mitten as new.