

The tracts of lower, nearly flat, land of Marion Island skirting the sea, and the lower hills and slopes along the shore, presented a curious spectacle as viewed from the ship as it steamed in towards a likely-looking sheltered spot for landing. The whole place was everywhere dotted over with albatrosses, the large white albatross or Goney (*D. exulans*). The birds were scattered irregularly all over the green in pairs, looking in the distance not unlike geese on a common.

A boat-load of explorers went on shore, every one having a heavy stick, as it was expected that we might meet with Fur Seals. As the boat pulled on shore cormorants flew about over our heads in numbers. A gull also was common, probably the same as at Kerguelen's Land, and I saw a small bird fly by, close to the water, which was probably *Pelacanoides urinatrix*, also of Kerguelen.

As we approached the shore we saw a pair of terns sitting on the rocks, probably *Sterna virgata*, which occurs at Kerguelen's Land; beautiful birds of a light soft grey and white plumage with coral red beaks and feet. The Giant Petrel or "Break bones" was also wheeling about over the water, and a few large albatrosses.

As we neared the beach we saw a bird like a small white hen, eyeing us inquisitively from the black rocks, against which a considerable swell was washing. This bird was the "Sheath-bill" (*Chionis minor*), of which we afterwards saw so much.

The surf is subdued a great deal by the thick growth of *D'Urvillaea utilis* upon the rocks. The plant is a huge brown seaweed with stout stems, as thick as one's wrist, attached to the rock by large conical boss-like suckers, and with large spreading leaves on the stalks, provided with floats composed of a series of honeycomb-like air-cells within a thickened frond. With some little difficulty we scrambled out on to the rocks, which were extremely slippery.

The first to get on shore fell in immediately with a female Sea-Elephant lying on a little patch of damp grass-land at the mouth of a miniature gully, opposite to which we landed. They thought they had got a Fur Seal, and killed the animal at once by striking it on the head with a stone.

I made my way up a steep bank and over a low hill to reach the plain where were most albatrosses. The walking was extremely tiring. The bank was steep and the soil saturated with moisture, and consisting of a black slimy mud, with holes full of water everywhere. The thick rank herbage concealed these treacherous places, which, as the ground was covered with *Azorella* tufts, gave way under one's feet and rendered