

need a good deal of bullying with the stick before they stand up in the nest and let one see whether they have got an egg there or no.

Then the egg is seen to appear slowly out of the pouch in which it is held during incubation. It is nearly five inches long, or about as big as a swan's, and is white with specks of red at the large end. Only one egg is laid. In most of the nests there were fresh eggs; in some, however, nearly full-grown young birds.

At Campbell Island, of the Campbell and Auckland group, the young of *Diomedea exulans* were found by an exploring party to be just breaking the shell in February.* Charles Goodridge, who was one of a sealing party on the Prince Edward Islands in 1820, and spent two years on the Crozets, says, that the albatrosses there lay at about Christmas, and that the period of incubation is about three months (?). The young, he says, were wing-feathered, and good to eat about May, and did not fly off till December.†

The young albatrosses are dark grey in plumage. They snap their bills, like the old ones, to try and frighten away enemies.

The old birds never attempt to fly, though persistently ill-treated or driven heavily waddling over the ground. Very many were killed by the sailors that their wing-bones might be taken out for pipe stems, and their feet skinned to make tobacco pouches. The old males tried to run away when frightened, but never even raised their wings.

It is amusing to watch the process of courtship. The male standing by the female on the nest raises his wings, spreads his tail and elevates it, throws up his head with the bill in the air, or stretches it straight out forwards as far as he can, and then utters a curious cry, like the Mollymauks, but in a much lower key, as would be expected from his larger larynx. Whilst uttering the cry, the bird sways his neck up and down. The female responds with a similar note, and they bring the tips of their bills lovingly together. This sort of thing goes on for half an hour or so at a time. No doubt the birds consider that they are singing. Occasionally an albatross flies round and alights upon the grass, but I saw none take wing.

* "Notes on the Geology of the Outlying Islands of New Zealand. Reported by Dr. Hector, F.R.S." Trans. N. Zealand Inst., Vol. II., 1869, p. 75.

† "Narrative of a Voyage to the South Seas, and Eight Years' Residence in Van Diemen's Land," p. 35, by C. M. Goodridge. London, Hamilton & Adams, 1833.