

scale, and this can only occur where there is a constant supply of snow. The island further lies within the line of the Antarctic drift, as do also the Crozets and Prince Edward Group; and this cold current must reduce the temperature considerably.

The island is in the region of prevailing westerly winds, the course of which is in the Southern Ocean, untrammelled and undisturbed by barriers of land. Since the line of its greatest length lies in a north-west and south-east direction, and the coast line, though much broken, trends on either side in the same direction, the north-east side is the sheltered one, and that, consequently, where are the safest anchorages, whilst the south-west is the weather side.

The island is throughout mountainous, made up of a series of steep-sided valleys separated by ridges and mountain masses, which rise to very considerable heights. Mount Ross, the highest, is 6,120 feet in altitude, Mount Richards 4,000 feet, Mount Crozier 3,250, Mount Wyville Thomson 3,160, Mount Hooker 2,600, Mount Moseley 2,400.

Thus the island, when viewed from the sea at a distance, presents a remarkable jagged outline of sharp peaks, which is most striking when it is observed from the south. The valleys run down everywhere to the sea, broadening out as they approach it. The coast is broken up everywhere by deep sounds or fjords, which resemble closely in form the fjords of Norway, and of all other parts of the world where fjords exist. They are long channel-like excavations of the coast-line, occupied by arms of the sea, often shallower at the mouths* than at the upper extremities, and bounded on either hand by perpendicular cliffs.

Kerguelen's land is of volcanic formation as far as it has yet been investigated, and there is no doubt that it is entirely so formed, the beds of coal alone excepted, and certain beds of red earth, which are of the same origin as the coal, but merely different in that they have been subjected to a more intense heating.

The surface has undergone immense denudation, and on its whole north-eastern and southern regions there is no trace of any volcanic cone or signs of comparatively modern volcanic action, as at Marion Island. Every appearance bespeaks considerable antiquity.

Nevertheless it seems to be certain that there exists, towards the south-west of the island, a still active volcano with hot springs in its neighbourhood. We fell in with an American whaling captain, Captain Fuller, who has been often on the

* The shallowness of the mouths of the fjords is well marked in the case of Royal Sound and Rhodes Bay.