

this instinct where there are no four-footed or human enemies ; possibly she finds it a successful *ruse* when the brood is attacked by the Skuas.

The young must constantly fall a prey to these ever-watchful Skuas, for in most cases I found only a single young one following the mother. There were no young met with in the condition of flappers, and the general breeding season was probably only about to begin, as it was with many birds of the island. The greater part of the birds were yet in flocks.

The flat stretch of land at the head of Christmas Harbour is covered with a thick rank growth of grass (*Festuca Cookii*), and a Composite herb with feathery leaves and yellow flower (*Cotula plumosa*), also with *Azorella* as at Marion Island, with *Acena* *Montia fontana* and *Callitriche verna* about the dampest places. The soil is black and peaty and saturated with water. It is almost impossible to find anything to burn ; the *Azorella* is the only thing that will burn, and sometimes pieces of this may be found that are dry enough, in places where the *Azorella* bunches overhang small precipices, and the water can thus drip away.

The feature which distinguishes the general appearance of the vegetation of Christmas Harbour from that of Marion Island is the presence of the Kerguelen Cabbage in large quantities. The plant grows on the slopes and bases of the cliffs in thick beds. The cabbage is in appearance like a small garden cabbage, but often with a long trailing stalk. It is, however, not annual, but perennial, and the flowering stalks, instead of coming out from the centre of the head, come out laterally from the sides of the stalks between the leaves.

The old flower stalks die and wither, but do not drop off. I counted on one cabbage at Betsy Cove 28 flowering stalks, of different ages ; three of them only being of the current year's growth and fresh. They appeared to belong to eight successive years. The cabbage about Christmas Harbour was either in flower or green fruit, mostly the latter. It was only to the south of the island, about Royal Sound, that ripe seed was met with ; but there, especially at Mutton Cove, it was abundant. The cabbage (*Pringlea antiscorbutica*), which like the familiar vegetable is a cruciferous plant, is peculiar to the Prince Edward, Crozets, Kerguelen and Heard Islands, and belongs to a genus with no near ally.

Crawling about the heart of the cabbages, and sheltering there, are to be found swarms of the curious wingless fly, likewise peculiar to Kerguelen's Land, and islands where the cabbage is found. The fly (*Calycopterix Moseleyi*, Eaton) is simply a long-legged brown fly, with very minute rudimentary