

to be seen commonly walking about in the streets, but all in European costume, reminding one somewhat of English gipsies.

The coast hills in the general appearance and colour of their vegetation, as seen from sea, recalled Kerguelen's Land, especially the shores about D'Urville Island, but all the valleys and inland slopes are covered with a dense forest and almost impenetrable bush. The trees are covered with epiphytic ferns, and Astelias, Liliaceous epiphytes, which, perched in the forks of the branches, remind one in their habit and appearance of the Bromeliaceous epiphytes of Tropical America.

One of the most remarkable trees which was pointed out to me by Mr. T. Kirk, F.L.S., is the Rata, a *Metrosideros*, *M. Robusta*. This, though a Myrtaceous plant, has all the habits of the Indian figs,* reproducing them in the closest manner. It starts from a seed dropped in the fork of a tree, and grows downward to reach the ground; then taking root there, and gaining strength, chokes the supporting tree and entirely destroys it, forming a large trunk by fusion of its many stems. Nevertheless, it occasionally grows originally directly from the soil, and then forms a trunk more regular in form. Another *Metrosideros*, *M. florida*, is a regular climber.

I did not see many birds. The gull of Kerguelen's Land (*Larus dominicanus*) was common in the harbour. On the telegraph wires along the shore sat a Kingfisher (*Halcyon sanctus*) in abundance, and dashed down from thence on its prey into the shallow water of the harbour. It interested me because it was the first Kingfisher that I had seen leading a littoral existence and feeding on sea fish. I afterwards became familiar with Kingfishers thus inhabiting the seashores in the Straits of Magellan and the coast of Oregon in North-west America. In the poulterers' shops the curious parrot, or Kaka, *Nestor meridionalis*, is hung up for sale. Mr. Potts describes this bird as tearing away the dead wood of trees in search of insects, and appearing to replace to some extent in its habits, in New Zealand, the totally absent Woodpecker.

The New Zealand Peripatus (*P. novæ zealandiæ*) is abundant near Wellington amongst dead wood, and I had 40 or 50 specimens brought to me as the result of a day's search in the Hutt Valley. As in the case of the Cape of Good Hope species, the males are much less abundant than the females.

In essential structure and habits the animal closely resembles the South African species. It is distinguished by having fewer pairs of feet, viz., 15 instead of 17. The females all contained young although it was mid-winter.

* T. Kirk, F.L.S., "On the Habit of the Rata, *Metrosideros robusta*. Trans. New Zealand Inst., Vol. IV., 1871, p. 267.