

of the bushes, and let down a rope by which we reached the crest. In order to collect plants, I had to hold my knotted handkerchief in my teeth and fill it. It was impossible to get at a vasculum. The crest of the ridge was nowhere more than a yard wide, often less. There was an almost sheer fall on either hand, and if grass and small bushes had not been growing at the edge on each side, it would have been very difficult to walk along the ridge without becoming giddy. It was as if one were walking along the top of an immensely high wall.

Here and there, small *Metrosideros* trees grew upon the centre of the crest of the ridge, and when these were encountered, we had to climb between the branches, often where they overhung a sheer drop below, and once we had to swing ourselves along the steep side of the crest for a short distance past one of these trees under its overhanging branches.

We ascended the crest of the ridge, until we had reached an altitude of 4,000 feet, when the guides found the way barred by a precipice and entirely impracticable. The summit of the ridge was covered with a thick growth of the fern *Gleichenia dichotoma*, and a climbing fern (*Lygodium*), and amongst the bushes on the ridge a Whortleberry (*Vaccinium*) was very abundant, and also two species of *Metrosideros*. The entire vegetation was different from that below. One of the species of *Metrosideros* was, however, also seen growing much lower down.

Just as the ridge met the face of the mountain, by which we were brought to a halt, its crest widened out, and here there was a damp hollow with mosses and lichens growing in it, in great abundance. Here also grew a tree (*Fitchia nutans*) belonging to the Compositæ, with a large yellow flower. The tree was 20 feet in height, and had a trunk nine inches in diameter. It is allied to the Composite trees of Juan Fernandez, being nearly related to the Chicory.

Here in the soft loose soil, amongst the moss, were numerous burrows of a Petrel, I believe *Procellaria rostrata*. The natives call the bird "Night-bird," just as the inhabitants of Tristan da Cunha call the Burrowing Petrels there "Night-birds." The Tropic Birds also nest far up in the mountains, and in Hawaii they nest in the cliffs of the crater of Kilauea at an altitude of 4,000 feet. Similarly a Puffin (*Puffinus nugax*) nests at the top of the Korovasa Basaga mountain, in Viti Levu Island, Fiji,* and, in like manner, a *Procellaria* breeds in the high mountains in Jamaica.

* Finsch und Hartlaub, "Ornithologie der Viti, Samoa, und Tonga Inseln." Halle, 1867. Einleitung, S. XVIII. Peale describes the habit in question of *Procellaria rostrata* at Tahiti.