water within the action of the surf. The usual belt of *Macrocystis* ranges along this side of the island.

"*Nightingale Island.*—Tussock grass (*Spartina arundinacea*) covers the whole island with a dense growth, excepting on the summits of the ridges and a few patches here and there on the lower tract, which are occupied by *Phylica nitida*. The tussock here, as at Inaccessible Island, forms an enormous penguin rookery. It was found impossible to reach the highest points of the island, the growth of grass being so thick that it was extremely difficult to penetrate. The plants found on the island were the same as those met with on Inaccessible Island, and grew here under similar conditions. *Lycopodium saururus* was found here, however, on the only high ground attained; and a groundsel-like plant (*Cotula moseleyi*), different from the one so common in Tristan, and not found in Inaccessible Island, was extremely abundant, growing even on unoccupied spots in the rookery. Several plants found in the other islands were not seen here, amongst these *Sonchus oleraceus*. The island has never been inhabited, and is visited only in the sealing time. Two fungi were found on the dead stems of *Phylica nitida*. A large number of these trees had at one spot been prostrated by the wind, and were lying dead. The small outlying islands are covered with tussock, and are rookeries.

"The rocky shelves on the coast frequented by the seals, and leading up to their caves, are coated with a thin layer of a small dark green *Ulva*. The rocks and the algæ were quite dry at the time of our visit, and were some feet above the reach of the ordinary surf. The dried dark green pellicle on the rock had a peculiar shining appearance, almost metallic. Specimens of the rock, with the alga attached, are sent to Kew. There is the usual belt of *Macrocystis pyrifera* here, very dense, and difficult for a boat to push through."

From the foregoing extracts we learn that *Phylica nitida* and *Spartina arundinacea* constitute almost the whole of the conspicuous part of the vegetation of these islands, and it is only on a closer inspection that the other elements become apparent. The *Phylica* often occurs in patches or coppices in the midst of large areas of the grass, the ground beneath being covered with a thick growth of sedges, ferns, and mosses, associated with *Nertera depressa, Acæna sanguisorbæ, Chenopodium tomentosum*, &c.

Mr Moseley is the author of the following particulars of these two plants :—

"In the penguin rookeries the grass, known to the inhabitants of Tristan as 'tussock,' has a habit which appears to be closely similar to that of the Falkland tussock, *Dactylis cæspitosa*, as described by Sir Joseph Hooker in the Flora Antarctica, p. 384. This grass grows to a height of five or six feet, springing in tufts, and forming massive boles or clumps at its base, composed of the contorted bases of the stalks and root-fibres closely matted together. These masses are tough and hard, almost requiring an axe to cut them. The grass thrives best where the ground is saturated with the penguins' dung. The basal masses gradually pass into a peaty, richly manured soil, thus formed, several feet in thickness. The growth of grass is so dense that it is with the utmost labour that a way can be forced through it, except along the penguin roads; and it is so high, that it is only by mounting on an occasional rock, fallen from above, that the direction which has been taken can be made out.