

THE  
VOYAGE OF H.M.S. CHALLENGER.

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BOTANY.

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REPORT on the BOTANY OF JUAN FERNANDEZ, the SOUTH-EASTERN MOLUCCAS,  
and the ADMIRALTY ISLANDS. By W. BOTTING HEMSLEY, A.L.S.

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JUAN FERNANDEZ AND MASAFUERA.

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INTRODUCTORY NOTES.

ORIGINALLY the name Juan Fernandez was applied to a group of three islands, of which the two principal were called Masatierra and Masafuera, indicating their positions with regard to the mainland. Now, that of Juan Fernandez is ordinarily applied to Masatierra only. This island, which is much the larger of the two, lies in about  $33^{\circ} 45'$  S. latitude and  $80^{\circ}$  W. longitude, or about 400 miles from the coast of Chili. The area is about twenty square miles;<sup>1</sup> and the greatest altitude is 3000 feet. A few miles to the south is a small island called Santa Clara or Goat Island. Masafuera is about ninety miles westward of Juan Fernandez; it is a barren rock of lava and scoria, concerning which, however, we have found no details, though some twenty species of vascular plants have been collected there by different travellers.<sup>2</sup> The coast is precipitous, and landing on any part perilous and difficult. Within historical times Juan Fernandez has suffered from violent earthquakes, which have desolated the settlements. Lord Anson visited it in 1741, and his description of its products is the earliest of note, yet it contains little precise information on its natural history.

<sup>1</sup> For further particulars on the physical composition, climate, &c., see Mr Moseley's notes below (pp. 8, *et seqq.*), and Narrative of the Cruise of H.M.S. Challenger, Chap. xix.

<sup>2</sup> The island is described as being covered with trees by the Rev. Mr Walter in his narrative of Commodore Anson's stay at Juan Fernandez, as quoted in *Crusonia*, p. 97. See p. 25, *postea*.