

husbands. In April 1827 he brought the women, and they were married to the five bachelors of the settlement, bringing the total number of families up to seven, and these were the residents when the group was visited and described by Captain Morrell of the "Antaretic."

In 1828 American whalers first began to visit the neighbourhood of the Tristan da Cunha group in search of spoil, and they have continued to do so more or less ever since. Requiring, as they do, a constant supply of fresh meat and vegetables, and having always on board surplus quantities of flour, coffee, tea, sugar, &c., a brisk trade ensued between their crews and the islanders, which reached its maximum in 1840, and has since gradually declined, for the whales, harassed by the attacks of the numerous ships employed in their capture, have gradually departed to localities less easy of access, and, naturally, the ships have endeavoured to follow them.

The visits of these whaling vessels were of considerable benefit to the colony, for not only did they bring news of what was going on in the world, but they afforded opportunities to the boys (descendants of the original settlers) of occasionally taking a cruise, thus becoming acquainted with other communities, and working off the natural wish of most young men to wander for a time; they also supplied opportunities of marriage to the young women, of which some took advantage; and, above all, by reminding the inhabitants that, did they feel discontented with their simple mode of life, an opportunity of escaping from it was frequently to be had for the asking, made them year by year less inclined to sacrifice their numerous comforts to enter the race of life amongst communities less bound together by ties of interest and consanguinity than themselves.

How the inhabitants of this remote dependency of the British Crown have prospered can be better seen by referring to the following table of statistics than by any description. Their flocks and herds have increased after supplying all their wants, and their vegetable produce has always been greater than the consumption, while their food and cooking have been described, by those visitors who have enjoyed their hospitality, as most excellent. The table gives the names of the ships whose captains have made reports on the state of the group, the date of their visit, the number of inhabitants, the produce of the island, and a column has been added showing in what publication these reports appear *in extenso*, so that reference can be made to them should it be necessary to ascertain exactly what was said of the settlement at any particular date.

The occasional decrease in the number of the inhabitants shown by this table is due to emigration, and not to disease or death. The residents are remarkably healthy and vigorous, and invariably decline to receive a medicine chest.

From all the ships mentioned in the following table a description of the settlement, more or less diffuse, has been given, from which an excellent idea of the condition of the island can be gathered.