

Island, landed on it, shortly after the wreck of the "Bienden Hall," some goats and pigs; the progeny of the latter still flourish on the plateau above the cliffs of the island, but as they live almost entirely on sea birds and their eggs, their flesh has a peculiar fishy flavour, and is very unpalatable, so much so that the men in the Challenger could not eat it.

From 1822 Inaccessible remained deserted until the 27th November 1871, when two Germans (brothers), named Frederic and Gustav Stoltenkoff, landed there for the purpose of collecting sealskins, and remained on the island until taken off by the Challenger in October 1873, after a residence of nearly two years.<sup>1</sup>

As the vessel lay off Inaccessible Island, the Penguins were to be heard screaming all night on shore and about the ship, and when parties of them passed by, they left vivid phosphorescent tracks behind them as they dived through the water alongside. In the morning the island was in full view, and presented on this side a range of abrupt cliffs, of much the same structure as those of Tristan, viz., successive layers of basalt, traversed by vertical or oblique dikes, mostly narrow vertical ones. At the foot of the cliffs are some very steep débris slopes, extending in one place a long way up the cliff, but not so as to render the ascent possible (see Pl. VIII.). In front of these stretches a strip of narrow uneven ground, formed of large detached rocks and detritus from the cliffs above, which terminates seawards in a beach of black boulders and large pebbles. In one place, where the cliff is somewhat lower than elsewhere, there is a waterfall, which at the time of the visit was scantily supplied with water, but, from the marks left by it on the rocks and vegetation, it evidently attains much greater dimensions in rainy weather. The cascade pours right down from the high cliff above into a dark pool of peaty water on the beach below. The rocks about its course are covered with mosses and green incrusting plants. The face of the cliff generally is sprinkled over with green, the vegetation consisting principally of Tussock Grass (*Spartina arundinacea*), Wild Celery (*Apium australe*), Sow-thistle (*Sonchus oleraceus*), Dock (*Rumex frutescens*), a small Sedge (*Carex insularis*), and Ferns; with dark green patches of *Phyllica nitida* on the débris slopes and ledges.

Amongst the grass are several patches or small coppices of *Phyllica nitida* trees, which keep the ground beneath them free from Tussock, it being covered instead with a thick growth of Sedges, Ferns, and Mosses, forming an elastic carpet on the dark peaty soil. Amongst the moss creeps *Nertera depressa*, with its bright red berries, and the *Potentilla*-like *Acæna sanguisorbæ* grows here and there, together with the "tea-plant" of the islanders. The stems and branches of the *Phyllica* trees are covered with lichens in tufts and variously coloured crusts, and the branches of the trees meeting above these little islands, as it were, in the seas of tall grass, afford most pleasant shady retreats, which

<sup>1</sup> Two Years on Inaccessible Island, by R. R. Richards, Esq., R.N., *Cape Monthly Magazine*, Cape Town, J. C. Juta 1873.