

substituted. At present the Company pays men to kill the wild cattle for their hides. They are thrown with the lasso or bolas, ham-strung, or "cut down" as the term is, and then killed and skinned at leisure. Two thousand had been thus killed in Lafonia in the year of the visit.

The boys at the Falkland Islands have invented a small bolas in which the large knuckle-bones of cattle are used as the larger balls, and a smaller bone from the foreleg as the small ball for the hand; they use the bone bolas for catching wild geese, creeping up to a flock and throwing the bolas at the birds on the wing as they rise. They constantly succeed in thus entangling them, and bringing them to the ground, and their mothers always send out their boys when they want a goose, so that the birds are seldom shot at around Darwin Harbour. The bone bolas comes curiously near that of the Esquimaux in structure, the latter, used also for catching birds, has however more than three balls, and these are made of ivory. Flocks of the geese were to be seen feeding on the grass close to the houses, looking just like farmyard geese. The birds take no notice of a gun, but are very quick at seeing a bolas brought near them, well knowing that they are going to be molested.

Near Darwin Harbour Mr. Moseley found some Dipterous insects with rudimentary wings, of which specimens have been sent to Mr. W. F. Kirby of the British Museum, who writes as follows:—"One is a Gnat allied to *Limnobia* (Tipulidæ). Another species has considerable resemblance to some of the subapterous Kerguelen insects, with one of which some dipterologists of my acquaintance regard it as identical; my own view is that it is totally distinct, but I should not like to express any opinion as to its affinities in the absence of better preserved specimens."

The Wingless Flies of Kerguelen have hitherto been found nowhere else but there and in Marion Island, and it would be of great interest to find further connections between Fuegia and the distant Kerguelen Island, the connections between the floras of which were so long ago demonstrated by Sir Joseph Hooker.

The Gnat cannot fly, having even smaller rudiments of wings than the other insect. It was found crawling on rocks, on the shore in sheltered places, and also on the sunny sheltered face of a peat-bank, which formed the cattle fence across the narrow neck of the promontory of Lafonia. It runs quickly, and when in danger draws up its legs and drops amongst the grass in order to escape. A Gnat with rudimentary wings occurs also in Kerguelen Island. Some species of Flies and Gnats with rudimentary wings are known in Europe and elsewhere, and an Apterous Fly (*Borborus apterus*) occurs in England. A Wingless Beetle, and another with perfect wings, were also found near Darwin Harbour.

The other species was found near Darwin Harbour, only on the sea coast, in hollows under overhanging slabs of the sandstone rocks, and sheltering in crevices. It springs nimbly like a Flea or small Grasshopper, and is a little difficult to catch, but cannot