

up his legs, tucking in his head, and screwing himself down into the grass like a hare into her form. We followed his example, and found that the perfection of the shelter to be thus obtained from the scanty herbage was astonishing.

“The squall being felt at the anchorage, up went the recall flag on board the ship, and as soon as the hail ceased, I had to hurry down to the shore, without having ascended the mountain-side for more than five hundred feet.”

In another place Mr Moseley says that Tristan da Cunha has a peculiar, cold, barren, uninhabitable appearance, which seems to be characteristic of the islands of the Southern Ocean.

With regard to the representatives of the animal kingdom in the islands that partly or wholly subsist on vegetable productions, formerly there were wild hogs, goats, and rabbits in large numbers on the main island, the descendants of a few individuals placed thereon by various mariners. In 1873, however, according to Moseley, the wild goats and pigs were certainly extinct, and the rabbits nearly, if not quite so. At the time of the visit of the Challenger Expedition, the islanders possessed about 400 or 500 head of cattle, and as many sheep. There were still at that date plenty of pigs, though no more goats in Inaccessible Island.

HISTORY OF THE BOTANICAL EXPLORATION OF THE GROUP.

Disregarding a few odd specimens picked up and preserved by various persons who have landed on the main island, we are only aware of the existence of four collections of Tristan da Cunha plants; and of these we have been able to examine and compare three. The first was made by the accomplished and enthusiastic French traveller and botanist, Aubert du Petit-Thouars, in January 1793.¹ This collection we have not seen, but the descriptions and figures of the plants published² by Thouars himself are in nearly every instance sufficient for their identification, so that few difficulties have arisen in determining the later collections in accordance with his original names of the plants. Thouars was on his way to the Mascarene Islands, in a small vessel of less than one hundred tons burthen, when the captain found it necessary to put in at Tristan da Cunha for water; and although he had very little time (five days), and was only able to land on the principal island, he not only made a nearly complete collection of the plants of that island, but he also surveyed the others; and in the work of which the title is given below are a map and several views of the three islands. The time actually devoted to botanising is very circumstantially set forth. On the 3d of January, the day of their arrival,

¹ Near the same date of the same year, Sir George Stanton, who was one of the members of Lord Macartney's embassy to China, collected a few plants in Tristan da Cunha, Amsterdam, and St Paul Islands.

² *Melanges de Botanique et de Voyages. Premier Receuil*, Paris, 1811. There are two parts, consecutively pagged, entitled respectively, *Description Abrégé des Isles de Tristan d'Acugna*, and *Esquisse de la Flore de l'Isle de Tristan d'Acugna*. The latter includes figures of ten of the flowering plants and four of the ferns.