

# PRINCE EDWARD GROUP.

## MARION ISLAND.

### INTRODUCTORY NOTES.

FOR what is known of the natural history of this group, we are wholly indebted to the Challenger Expedition. The vegetation of these islands, the Crozets, Kerguelen, and Heard Islands, is essentially the same; therefore it would be superfluous to analyse the composition of their individual floras. Instead of this, a tabular view of the vascular plants of all the islands is given in the Report on the Botany of Heard Island—the last of the series (p. 244).<sup>1</sup> With the exception of *Hymenophyllum tunbridgense*, *β wilsoni*, and *Aspidium mohrioides* in Marion Island, and *Asplenium obtusatum* in the Crozets, all the vascular plants, at least, that have been collected in Marion, the Crozets, and Heard Islands, occur also in Kerguelen Island. In this place Mr Moseley's account of the vegetation, &c., of Marion Island, in his Notes by a Naturalist on the Challenger, pp. 163–170, is repeated with some trifling alterations to bring it in harmony with the other part of this work:—

“Marion Island, which with the smaller island of Prince Edward makes up the Prince Edward group, was sighted on the evening of December 25. The centre of Marion Island is in lat. 46° 52' S., long. 37° 45' E., that of Prince Edward Island in lat. 46° 36' S., long. 37° 57' E., the city of Lyons being in a nearly corresponding latitude in the northern hemisphere.

“The islands are distant from the Crozets (which lie to the north-east of them, and are the nearest land) 450 miles. From the African continent they are distant about 960 miles, the nearest point being about Cape Recife at Algoa Bay. From Kerguelen's Land Marion Island is distant about 1200 miles; from Lindsay and Bouvet Islands, about 1400 miles; from Tristan da Cunha and Gough Islands, about 2150 miles; and, lastly, from the Falkland Islands and Fuegia (to which, in common with all the other Antarctic islands hitherto examined, except the Campbell and Auckland group, they are in their flora most nearly related) they are distant about 4500 geographical miles.

“The islands lie, as do the Crozets and Kerguelen's Land, well within the course of the Antarctic

<sup>1</sup> Concerning the vegetation of Diego Alvariez or Gough Island, in about 40° 30' S. lat., and 10° W. long., we know nothing beyond the statement published by Mr Moseley (Journ. Linn. Soc. Lond. xiv. p. 384), that he was informed by a Tristan settler, who had lived for months in the island, that the same flowering plants and tree (*Phyllica*) grow there as in the Tristan da Cunha group, but that the ferns are different.

Of the botany of the group of islands in about 54° S. lat., and 5° W. long., comprising Bouvet, Lindsay, and Thompson, we have no knowledge whatever.