

a novel and curious appearance; and the noise from these rookeries was deafening. Besides these birds, we were enabled to secure specimens of twenty other varieties.

Probably there is no place under the same parallel of latitude in either hemisphere which affords so scanty a field for the naturalist as this barren spot. Remote, and comparatively bare of vegetation, still there are several interesting points connected with its botany. Though now destitute of even a shrub, the abundance of fossil remains proves that many parts were for successive ages clothed with trees, which were probably destroyed by frequent overflowings of volcanic matter, of which the remains found and the numerous beds of coal afford abundant proof; since that period it appears to have remained in a state of almost entire vegetable destitution. The end of January found us in Christmas Harbour (the northern extremity of the island), the tranquil waters of which were quite a relief after the knocking about we experienced during the past month; but everything was now ready for sea, and later in the day anchor was weighed, and under sail we beat out, with a fine fresh breeze, passing close along Terror Reef, over which the sea was breaking with sufficient force to indicate its danger, and affording a capital sight of the celebrated "Arch Rock," an oblong block, 150 feet high, of bedded volcanic formation, like a piece of ordinary masonry, with a