

tions of the place in books of travel. The visit of the Dutch brig "Dourga" in about 1827 is omitted.* Before the time of the second exile of Napoleon, the island had been settled by some American agriculturists; but their adventure failed, and the place was but scantily inhabited until the date at which Napoleon was sent to St. Helena.

A corps of Artillery was then sent to Tristan, and batteries were begun to be constructed. A corporal named Glass received permission to stay on the island when the men were withdrawn, and a small colony sprang up which has lasted till the present time, Glass having been for many years regarded as a sort of governor. The numbers were at one time over 200, but were at the time of our visit about 90; the younger members of the settlement constantly migrate to the Cape.

We anchored at early morning on the north-west side of the island of Tristan da Cunha, nearly opposite to the settlement. The island here rises in a long black cliff range; above this stretches a plateau about 2,000 feet above sea level, on which can be discerned from below two or three small secondary craters; above the plateau rises the Peak, a conical mountain with rounded summit, which at the time of our visit and throughout the year, excepting in the middle of summer, is covered over with a smooth shining cap of snow, its lower slopes being dotted over with irregular patches of snow, between which the dark rocks showed out in relief. The whole island has a peculiar cold barren uninhabitable appearance, which seems to be characteristic of the islands of the Southern Ocean.

The cliffs show a very regular stratification, and are composed throughout of a series of beds lying nearly horizontally, but dipping slightly towards the shores, at least they appear to do so east and west of the anchorage. The beds, which are conspicuously marked, are alternately of hard basalt and looser scoriaceous lava, with occasional beds of a red tuff. The whole section is traversed by numerous dykes, mostly vertical and usually narrow, and is not unlike that exposed in the Grand Curul at Madeira in appearance.

Streams, or rather cascades, which come dashing down to the sea during the constant heavy rains, have eaten their way into the cliffs, and their beds form conspicuous features in the view as narrow gullies, descending the rocks in a series of irregular steps. At the foot of the cliffs, immediately opposite the anchorage, are débris slopes and irregular rocky and sandy ground, forming a narrow strip of low shore land.

The settlement lies on a broader and more even stretch of

* "Voyage of the Dutch Brig of War 'Dourga,'" p. 2. Trans. by W. Earle. London, John Madden & Co., 1840.