

toms. And yet how strong is the tendency in birds to preserve their habits! I know of no more striking instance of this than the fact that the Apteryx of New Zealand (*A. australis*) considers it necessary to put as much of its head as it can under its rudiment of a wing, when it goes to sleep.*

The pigs cannot get down the cliffs to the rookeries on the north side of the island.

One penguin at the Falkland Islands (*Spheniscus Magellanicus*) regularly nests in burrows, sometimes twenty feet long. Another species of the same genus (*Spheniscus minor*) breeds in neat holes burrowed in sandbanks, at New Zealand.†

On the beach are large banks of seaweed, but, as at Tristan, the heavy surf so batters the weeds, that it is difficult to find a serviceable specimen. An Octopus is very common amongst the stones, about the edge of the surf. I caught several attracted by the washing of the penguins' flesh and skins in the water. A *Chiton*, *Patella* and *Buccinum* are also common about the shore, as at Tristan.

All night long the penguins on shore in the rookery kept up an incessant screaming, no doubt lamenting the terrible invasion to which they had been subjected. The sound at a distance was not unlike that which one hears from tree-frogs in the south of Europe, "Cāā Quārċ, Cāā Quārċ, Cā Cāā Cā Cāā." In the morning we moved to Nightingale Island, taking the Germans with us.

Nightingale Island, Oct. 17th, 1873.—Nightingale Island, the smallest of the Tristan group, lies $20\frac{1}{2}$ miles S.W. by W. of Tristan Island, and about 22 miles N.W. by W. of Inaccessible Island. The Island is about $1\frac{1}{20}$ th mile long, by less than one mile broad; its area is thus not more than one square mile. We steamed up to the north-west side in the morning.

In the north-east is a rocky peak, from which an elevated ridge runs down to the sea on the east side, whence the Peak is accessible. On the north side it is impracticable, being too precipitous. A lower ridge stretches N.E. and S.W. on the south side of the island, and a broad valley separates the western termination of this ridge from the high ground and peaks on the N.E.; the highest peak is 1,100 feet in height, and the highest point of the lower ridge, 960 feet.

The whole of the lower land, and all but the steepest slopes of the high land and its actual summits, are covered with a dense growth of tussock, which occupies also even the ledges and short slopes between the bare perpendicular rocks of the

* T. H. Potts, "On the Birds of New Zealand," Trans. N. Z. Institute. Vol. V., 1872, p. 186.

† T. H. Potts, *Ibid.*, Vol. II., 1869, p. 75.