

weather shore, and is well acquainted with the position of the volcano, and though he had not been actually at it himself, some of his men had; and in Tristan da Cunha we received independent testimony in the matter from old sealers.

The appearance of the island in the region of the volcano must thus be very different from that of the north-eastern and south-eastern portions.

As necessarily follows from the presence of fjords, the whole of the lower rock surface of the island shows most marked evidence of glaciation.

Christmas Harbour, almost on the extreme north of the island, is a small example of one of the fjords. It is a deep inlet, looking nearly due east, with dark frowning cliffs on either hand at its entrance. The land on either side runs out into long narrow promontories, which separate the harbour from another similar fjord on its south and from a bay on the north. The promontories thus formed are high, and bounded throughout almost their entire stretch by sheer precipices on either hand. On the northern side only of Christmas Harbour, somewhat above its mouth, does the land rise in a steep broken slope, which can be ascended directly from the sea.

At the termination seawards of the southern promontory, is the well-known arched rock of Christmas Harbour, a roughly rectangular oblong mass, evidently once directly continuous with the rest of the promontory, but now separated from it, except at its very base, by a chasm, and perforated so as to form an arch. Above the high cliffs on the south side towers up a huge and imposing mass of black looking rock with perpendicular faces; this overhanging somewhat towards the harbour from the weathering out of soft strata beneath it, looks as if it might fall some day and fill the upper part. On the north side rises a flat-topped rocky mass 1,215 feet in height, called Table Mountain.

At the head of the harbour is a sandy beach and small stretch of flat land, as exists at the heads of all the fjords, and beyond this the land rises in a series of steps, separated by short cliffs towards the bases of Table Mountain and the great rock on the south.

The appearance of the whole is extremely grand, and the marked contrast between the blackness of the rocks and the bright yellow green of the rank vegetation clothing all the lower region of the land, so characteristic of the appearance of all these so-called Antarctic Islands, renders the general effect in fine weather most beautiful. I landed on the morning of the 7th of January at the head of the harbour, with a large party, all eager to kill a Fur Seal; as the boat grounded on the black