

surf, and they were obliged to cut it in two and patch up the best half of it, and use it as best they might in smooth weather close to the shore.

They went from time to time to the upper plateau and shot goats and pigs. When they first arrived, they counted a flock of twenty-three goats; three of these were killed during the summer of 1871-'72 by the Tristan people, and six by themselves; the remaining fourteen remained over the winter of 1872. The flesh of the goats they found extremely delicate. Pigs were much more numerous, but their flesh was not so palatable, from their feeding principally on sea-birds; that of the boars was especially rank. They found the pigs very valuable, however, in yielding an abundant supply of lard, which they used to fry their potatoes.

In the month of April, 1872, a singular misfortune befell them. While burning some of the brush below to make a clearing, the tussock in the gully by which they had been in the habit of ascending the cliff caught fire, and as it had been only by its assistance that they had been able to scramble up the plateau, their only hunting-ground was now inaccessible from the strip of beach on which their hut and garden stood, which was closed in at either end by a headland jutting into the sea. While their half boat remained sea-worthy, they were able to paddle round in fine weather to the west side of the island, where there was an access to the top; but the "sea-cart," as they called it, was washed off the beach and broken up in June, and after that the only way they had of reaching the plateau was by swimming round the headland—a risky feat, even in the finest weather, in these wild regions.

In winter it was found to be impossible to reach the terrace, and as their supply of food was low, they experienced considerable privations during their first winter. Their daily allowance of food was reduced to a quantity just sufficient to maintain life, and in August they "were little better than skeletons."