

so that visits to Nightingale Island have of late years much diminished in frequency. The same small tree and Tussock Grass found on Tristan and Inaccessible Islands grow here, and the island is also frequented by the same birds. Water was not so plentiful as on the other two islands, and goats have not been landed, a subject of much regret, as they would certainly flourish. The island was surveyed in a somewhat similar manner to Inaccessible. An officer was stationed on the summit of Middle Island, who took the bearing of the ship and her masthead angle, at given signals, viz., when the ship was stationary, sounding and obtaining observations. The day being fortunately less cloudy than usual, sights for longitude, latitude, and true bearings were obtained, and angles to the summits of the various salient points on Inaccessible and Tristan Islands, by which the correct relative positions of the three islands of the group with regard to each other were ascertained. The observation spot, the summit of Middle Island, was found to be in lat. $37^{\circ} 25' 50''$ S., long. $12^{\circ} 29' 45''$ W.

Between Inaccessible and Nightingale Islands there is a perfectly safe passage, 10 miles in width, in which a sounding of 465 fathoms was obtained by the Challenger; and between Nightingale and Tristan Islands there are depths of 1000 fathoms and upwards.

Landing at Nightingale can easily be effected in moderate weather on the rocks at its northeast point; here, as in all the other islands of the group, a belt of kelp prevents the swell from breaking, and the boat rises and falls alongside the cliffs without danger, if care be taken to cast a line over some projecting knobs to prevent the surging backwards and forwards, which is certain to be experienced in all cases where the sea runs along the side of a cliff. There are no beaches on Nightingale Island.

The whole of the lower land of the island, 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 Peak. The lower ridge is covered with the grass on all except its very summit, where, amongst huge irregularly piled boulders of basalt, grow the same ferns as are found on Inaccessible Island, and *Phylica nitida* trees. The summit of the higher ridge appears to have a similar vegetation, the Tussock ceasing there. In the sea of tall grass, clothing the wide main valley of the island on its south side, are patches of *Phylica* trees, growing in many places thickly together as at Inaccessible Island, with a similar vegetation devoid of Tussock beneath them. The appearance of the tall grass, when seen from a distance, is most deceptive; as the island was viewed from the deck of the ship about a quarter of a mile off, a green coating of grass was seen, coming everywhere down to the verge of the wave-wash on the rocks, and stretching up comparatively easy looking slopes towards the peaks. The grass gave no impression of its height and impenetrability. On closer inspection, however, the real state of the case might be inferred, for there was plainly visible a dark sinuous line leading from the sea right inland through the thickest of the