

firewood, but there is still plenty of wood on the island, and the trunks of the trees on the upper plateau reach a diameter of 15 inches, as I was told by the inhabitants. The wood supply is not almost exhausted, as is stated in the Cruise of the "Galatea." *Hymenophyllum æruginosum* was found in this gully, and a large specimen of *Lomaria boryana* was picked up, detached, apparently fallen from above. In a deep ditch near one of the cottages are two or three willow bushes, which, in this sheltered situation, are doing well. The water of the streams running down the cliffs opposite the anchorage was found to have a temperature of 50° F., and one of the fresh-water ponds at sea-level a temperature of 54° F. The greater cold of the stream is obviously due to the influence of the snow-water from the peak above.

"The surf throws up a bank of seaweed on the beach; but the heavy waves, dashing on the coarse boulders of which the beach is composed, pound up the algæ to such an extent that a useful specimen is scarcely to be found. The island has a belt of *Macrocystis pyrifera* growing round it. The part between the anchorage and the shore was in about fifteen fathoms.

"*Inaccessible Island*.—On the N.E. side, where the Challenger anchored, the island presents a range of perpendicular cliffs about 1000 feet in height, resembling those of Tristan. Beneath the cliffs is a considerable tract of uneven lower land, composed of *débris* from the cliffs above, and scattered over with fallen rocks. The vegetation of the cliffs is closely similar to that of those of Tristan, but the lower land is covered over its greater part with a dense growth of the tall reed-like *Spartina arundinacea*, which forms a vast penguin rookery. Amidst the sea of grass, on the summits of slight elevations, are patches of *Phyllica nitida*. The trees grow thickly together, and their branches meet overhead. The ground beneath them is free from tussock (*Spartina*), and covered with ferns, mosses, and sedges, with *Acarna sanguisorbæ*, and the tea plant (*Chenopodium tomentosum*), in great abundance, the latter here forming a small bush with woody stems. The trunks of the trees are covered with lichens. In a swamp near the penguin rookery a moss was found in abundance, and a sedge (*Carex insularis*), different from those noticed elsewhere, together with *Hydrocotyle capitata*, found also in Tristan, but not obtained in flower.

"Two Germans, one of whom had been a sub-lieutenant in the army in the late war, and who is well educated and highly intelligent, have been living on the island for two years. They gave me much information about the plants. They have cultivated potatoes and cabbages, and several other vegetables, and have introduced two species of clover, which are spreading rapidly. They probably also brought with them to the island a *Convolvulus*, which is very abundant on the cultivated ground near their hut. The ascent to the top of the island is impracticable from the side on which I was landed; and Captain Nares considered it unsafe to land a boat on the north side, where the path to the summit lies. No plants, therefore, were obtained from the higher land. The Germans, however, who frequently spend months together there, say that the plants there are of the same kinds as those below; but, in addition, grow the *Empetrum* of the other islands, *Lomaria boryana*, a *Lycopodium*, said by them to be different from the one found in their company on Nightingale Island, and a small daisy-like flower (*Lagenophora commersonii*). The tussock grass, which spreads up the slopes and straggles up the cliffs to the summit, grows also in large patches on the upper plateau. *Phyllica nitida* grows in abundance there also, and *Nertera depressa*, the berries of which are the favourite food of the remarkable endemic thrush of the Tristan group (*Nesocichla eremita*). The berries of *Phyllica* are eaten by the bunting (*Emberiza brasiliensis*). On the sea-shore, several species of seaweed grow in considerable quantity, attached to the rocks in shallow