

Findlay must have visited the island at a more rainy season. The mass of the island is evidently volcanic with veins of granite (?), with gravel and iron (?), covered with a thin layer of sandy earth saturated with guano, loose, and full of rents, as though it had recently undergone some violent shocks. In the middle is a hollow which appears to have been the crater.

With regard to the vegetation, on the flat parts only one species of *Liguerilla* [*Dendroseris*?] existed; it was usually eighteen inches high, but sometimes double that height. In the ravines, where it was damp, there were other plants, of which specimens were collected; but no grass or edible plant was seen. Of living beings, only three kinds of sea-birds were seen, and they were different from those of the Chilian coast, and so tame that one had to be careful to avoid treading upon them in their nests.

Ten nautical miles westward from San Ambrosio is the group of San Felix, which consists of two islands and a rock. The main island measures two nautical miles from east to west by half a mile broad, with a general height of 200 feet, rising in the north-west to 400 feet. There is no beach except in two small spots on the north and west sides; otherwise it is not difficult to reach the plateau. The moss of the island is identical with that of San Ambrosio, but the thickness of the loose layer of earth is greater, being in places as much as a yard. It consists almost wholly of fresh white guano, apparently of excellent quality,¹ and many shiploads of it might be obtained. The vegetation was limited to a single nettle; and the birds were the same as in San Ambrosio. No drinkable water was found. About half a mile west-north-west of the western point of San Felix is a singular rock some 300 feet high with two pointed pyramids; hence the Spaniards have named it "Brigantine," and the English "Peterborough Cathedral."

The specimens of plants were mere fragments, brought away by Commander Simpson in his hat, and were never properly pressed; still Dr Philippi was able to determine them, with the exception of two. And two of the plants collected by Dr Coppinger are evidently the same as two of those described by Philippi. The plants known are:—

MALVACEÆ.

Malva limensis, Linn.

Malva limensis, Linn., Sp. Pl., ed. 2, p. 968? Philippi in Bot. Zeit., 1870, p. 498.

SAN AMBROSIO. *Simpson*.

Philippi hesitates to refer this unconditionally to *Malva limensis*, Linn., because the carpels are furnished with small teeth or spines, instead of being smooth; but all the specimens we have examined that are so named at Kew are more or less prickly. *Malva peruviana*, Linn., is very closely allied, differing in its more evidently prickly carpels. Perhaps they are better regarded as forms of one species, common from New Grenada to Chili. *Malvastrum* is the genus to which the plant is now generally referred.

¹ A sample was subsequently analysed and found to contain very little ammonia; hence it is of little value.