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The Coast of Africa from the Cape Colony to Ichaboe Island.
By Captain Morell.

September, 13th.—We continued exploring the coast keeping the boats close in-shore in search of fur-seal on every mile of the coast until Saturday, the 13th of September, when we fell in with a small island, in lat. 31° 32' S., long. 17° 50' E., about half a mile from the shore. Here, for the first time, our search was successful. A small reef runs off from the west end of this island, to the distance of about a hundred fathoms.

From this island we followed the shore to the north-westward, passing Point Grazing, in lat. 31° 20' S., and four places which are said to be rivers, viz., Zwarte Darn River, in lat. 30° 45', not open; Greene River in lat. 30° 33', not open; Zwarte Lintjie River, 30° 21', not open; and Koussie River, in lat. 29° 54' S., long. 16° 57' E.; the latter was open, and may be passed in boats only at full sea. It is closed at times, however, in the dry season, by the shifting of the sandhills in windy weather. This may well be called Salt River, as the salt water runs up it about fifteen miles, ten miles of which is very shallow. This is the northern boundary of the Cape colony.

Many of the rivers which intersect this extensive colony are merely periodical torrents, which continue to flow during the rainy season, but which, during the summer, leave their deep-sunk beds almost completely dry; and the rivulets which are supplied by the mountain springs have scarcely escaped from their lofty sources, before they are either absorbed by the thirsty earth, or evaporated by the heated air. Even the permanent rivers, some of which contain sufficient water for the navigation of small craft, for several miles up the country, are all, except the Knysna, rendered inaccessible by a bar of sand or a reef of rocks across the mouth.

The land bordering on the sea coast in this latitude is very sandy, and only fit for grazing fields; and for many miles into the interior it seems to be destitute of arable soil. Many kinds of skins, however, may be procured here, including those of the leopard, fox, bullock, &c., together with ostrich-feathers, and valuable minerals from the head of Koussie River. Vast numbers of horned cattle are raised in the interior.

From the mouth of this river the coast trends N.N.W., a little westerly, twenty-eight leagues, to Cape Voltas in latitude 28° 24' S., longitude 16° 28' E.; variation per azimuth 25° 55' westerly. There is a bank of soundings that puts off to the west of this cape about thirty miles, at which distance there is forty fathoms of water; the depth becoming gradually and regularly reduced as we approach the shore. This bank extends southerly along the coast, quite to the Cape of Good Hope, varying from thirty to fifty miles off-shore; and from Point St. Martin's to the last-named cape there are many dangers, lying from two to five miles off-shore. But north of St. Martin's to Cape Voltas, there are no dangers more than a quarter of a mile from the land.

The Socos Islands, laid down on the charts as lying in lat. 29° 35' S., long. 16° 34' E., said to be about twenty miles from the land,
are not to be found. They have been represented as four in number, with several small islands between them and the continent. But I can assert positively that no such islands exist; neither is there any island of any description lying between St. Helena Bay and Cape Voltas, more than half a mile from the main.

Cape Voltas is also very erroneously laid down, in lat. 29° 20' S., and long. 16° 31' E., with a deep bay running in on the north side of the cape, twenty-five miles, in an E.S.E. direction, with deep water all over the bay. Now, the true and correct situation of Cape Voltas is in lat. 28° 27' 30'' S., long. 16° 17' E. The cape is a high bluff point, projecting into the sea, and there are several rocks lying about half a mile to the west of it, beyond which there are no dangers. About one mile north of the cape there is a small bay, not more than two miles in length, and one and a half in width; within which the anchorage is not safe, as the ground is foul, and heavy rollers are continually heaving in from the westward, at all seasons of the year. Ships, however, which are in want of firewood, may lie off and on, and obtain any quantity from the head of the bay, where they will find a thousand cords piled up on the beach, which come down the Orange or Gariep River, the entrance to which is about two leagues to the north of Cape Voltas.

The land around the cape, and to the south as far as Koussie river is high on the sea-board, running back into elevated mountains. The hill-sides are covered with very good grass for grazing cattle, but the summits of these eminences are one mass of volcanic productions. I know not how far north of Table Bay Mr. Barrow travelled, without discovering "a volcanic product"; but I am positive that such relics might have been found in great abundance as far south as Elephant river. Mr. Barrow says, "There is neither a volcano nor a volcanic product in the southern extremity of Africa, at least in any of those parts where I have been; nor any substances that seem to have undergone the action of fire, except masses of iron-stone, found generally among the boggy earth, in the neighbourhood of some of the hot springs, and which appear like the scorie of furnaces. Pieces of pumice-stone," he continues, "have been picked up on the shore of Robben Island (or Seal Island, in the mouth of Table Bay), and on the coast near Algoa Bay, which must have been wafted thither by the waves, as the whole basis of this island is a hard and compact blue schistus, with veins of quartz running through it; and, of the eastern coast, iron-stone and granite.

If these remarks were intended to apply to the vicinity of Cape Town, or even as far north as St. Helen Bay, a distance of more than a hundred miles from Table Bay, I have nothing to offer in opposition. But north of that, I must contend for volcanic remains.

It is said that there is no fresh water to be had on this coast, north of Cape Voltas. But this is an error; as any quantity can be had in Voltas Bay, in the rainy season, without the trouble of searching for it under ground. But by digging, fresh water may be had at all seasons of the year, at a short distance at the head of the bay, where the landing is very safe and convenient, sheltered by two small islands lying close to the beach, inside of which the water is perfectly smooth.
This is also a fine place to procure bullock's hides, fox-skins, leopard-skins, ostrich feathers, and many other valuable articles.

For the lucrative business of "jerking beef," there is not a more eligible situation on the whole surface of the globe; as any number of bullocks, in the finest order, may be purchased at fifty cents each, delivered on the beach; and for ten months in the year there is little or no rain. By penetrating the interior forty or fifty miles from the coast, which may be done with perfect safety, and without the slightest personal risk, thousands of fine fat cattle may be purchased for as many toys, and the bargain consummated under the guns of your vessel. The natives are honest and inoffensive; being in a state of nature, and having never studied the arts of deceitful villany which are practised so successfully by the children of civilization.

Should any citizen feel disposed to fit out a vessel for the coast of Africa, to procure a cargo of hides and other valuable articles, I will cheerfully communicate every necessary information on the subject; a subject which I have deeply investigated, and can speak of from practical knowledge. Such a voyage could not fail of being highly profitable to the owners and every one concerned. Had I not subsequently made more valuable discoveries in the Pacific, and were I not bound by every tie of humanity, as well as justice and honour, to restore my two captives to their native country, to which they are very anxious to return, I would myself be the first to penetrate the interior of Africa; with full confidence that in twelve months after I arrived on the coast, I could purchase, and have driven to the sea coast, more than fifty thousand bullocks, besides the other valuable articles common to that section of the country.

September 18th.—After taking on board a sufficient quantity of wood in four hours, we left Cape Voltas, on Thursday, the 18th, and steered to the north, with a fine breeze from the south, and fair weather. At 3 P.M., we reached the entrance of Gariep or Orange River, between which and Voltas Bay, on the sea coast, the land is very low, sandy, barren, and desolate. It retains this appearance for some distance from the shore; but after running back six or eight miles, it begins to swell into hills, and still farther back it rises into lofty mountains, which stand each side of the river, on the banks of which are a few Hottentot villages. The wealth of the inhabitants consists of herds of cattle and flocks of sheep.

Orange River, though quite extensive in its course, is in the latter part of the dry season, nearly closed at its entrance, and the water continues shallow four or five miles westward of the river's mouth. On this shoal the sea breaks every full and change of the moon, as there is a heavy swell setting in from the west at that time. There are many valuable minerals and precious stones found in and about this river, and I have found a few grains of gold-dust at the river's mouth. Copper and lead ore have been found here, and I have no doubt that there are many valuable mines in this part of the country. Notwithstanding the sterile aspect of the seashore, twenty-five miles up the river the soil is good, and the country well wooded. A few miles farther east are extensive plains, on which I have seen more than 3000 head of cattle, equal to any in the world. Here the soil is rich, and
would produce any thing that might be put into the ground. Some of
the forests are of very handsome growth, and the different varieties
of plants are verynumerous. I have bought bullocks here for one pound
of powder each, and ostrich feathers at a proportionally low price.

Persons wishing to have communication with this river must land at
Voltsa Bay, and walk to the banks of Orange, as there is no landing
at or near its mouth, any season of the year, on account of the continual
heavy surf that is always rolling in upon this coast from the westward.
This river rises far in the interior, and may be said to commence at Campbell's Dorp, six hundred miles directly east from its mouth; being formed there by the confluence of another, called Yellow
River, which rises among mountains nearly four hundred miles to the
north-east of Campbell's Dorp, and eight hundred from the mouth of
the Orange. Two or three other rivers also add their waters to the
Orange.

Taking our leave of Orange River, we continued examining the
coast to the N.N.W. along a straight shore, clear of dangers, until we
came to what is called Angras Juntas Bay, said to have an island at
its entrance, and a bay or lagoon within the island, running six leagues
north and south, completely sheltered from all winds. This I know is
not the case, as I have examined every rod of this coast with my boats,
in broad daylight, close to the outer edge of the surf on the beach. At
the place called Angras Juntas there is a small bend in the land, run-
ing in to the eastward about a mile, the width of its mouth being a
mile and a half. Here ships may find tolerable shelter, with southerly
winds, and it is likewise a convenient place to have communication
with the Hottentots, some of whom reside about five miles to the north-
east of this bay. There is a small rock that stands to the south-west
on the south point about two miles, with deep water all around it.

At the entrance of this bay there is fourteen fathoms of water, which
gradually lessens to five fathoms, about half a mile from the bottom of
the bay, sandy bottom. But the best anchorage is under the south
shore, one-fourth of a mile from the point to the south-west, in six
fathoms, sandy ground. This place is situated in latitude 27° 47' S.,
long. 15° 50' E.

September 20th.—We continued steering to the north and west, crit-
ically examining every mile of the coast, until Saturday the 20th,
when we arrived at Whale Bay, which is in latitude 27° 23' S. This
bay is unsafe for ships to anchor in, on account of the shoal water in
every part of it; but they may anchor outside of two small islands
which front the bay, lying half a mile from the shore, on which may
be taken a few fur-seal, in the proper season. The landing on the
south side of the bay is good, and an eligible place for trading with the
Hottentots, who inhabit a small village which stands in a pleasant
valley, ten miles inland. They frequently stray down to this bay in
search of shell-fish, and will dispose of bullocks, sheep, and ostrich
feathers on very favourable terms. I can recommend these men for
trusty guides for any person that may wish to take an excursion into
the interior. The coast along here is nothing but one sandy desert,
with the exception of a few rocky hills composed of volcanic sub-
stances.
From this place we followed the coast to Elizabeth Bay, which is fronted by Possession island. The centre of the island is in lat. 26° 57' S., long. 15° 8' E. Between this place and Cape Volta there are many small islets and reefs, lying half a mile from the shore; but there are no dangers at double that distance from the land; and ships if becalmed, may anchor five miles from the coast, in from fifteen to twenty fathoms, sandy bottom. These soundings extend along the whole range of coast.

Possession Island is three miles in length, and near one mile in width; forming, on the east side, a concave curvature, in which ships will find good anchorage from seven to four fathoms, sandy bottom, and smooth water. The landing is also good in front of the anchorage, near the centre of the island, half a mile from the beach. At this place, in the months of August, September, and October, any quantity of penguins' eggs may be collected; and fish of an excellent quality may be caught in great abundance about the shores.

On the surface of this island I saw the effects of a pestilence or plague, which had visited the amphibious inhabitants of the ocean with as much malignancy as the Asiatic cholera has the bipeds of the land. The whole island was literally covered with the carcasses of fur-seal, with their skins still on them. They appeared to have been dead about five years, and it was evident that they had all met their fate about the same period. I should judge, from the immense multitude of bones and carcasses, that not less than half a million had perished there at once, and that they had all fallen victims to some mysterious disease or plague.

There are a few sunken rocks lying off the south point of the island, about three-quarters of a mile, on which the sea generally breaks: There is also a reef running off the north-east end of the island, about three miles, on which the breakers are frequently very heavy. These reefs both incline to the eastward, which promotes the smoothness of the water in the harbour. Between the island and the continent, or rather between the extreme points of the reefs and the mainland, the channel is three miles wide, with from fifteen to ten fathoms of water, sandy bottom, and free from dangers. Ships intending to anchor at this island while the south winds are fresh should approach the anchorage from the south, and leave it by the opposite passage.

A Hottentot village, of limited dimensions and population, is situated about twenty-five miles E.b.S. from the bottom of Elizabeth Bay; and another, somewhat larger, will be found on an E.b.N. course, fifteen miles farther inland, containing about seven hundred inhabitants. Between this village and the sea coast is a dreary sandy waste, destitute of water, soil, and vegetation; with the exception of a small valley, in which there are several fine springs, where cattle that are driven from the interior may renew their stock of fresh water. Forty miles on an E.b.S. course from the landing, on the south part of the bay, are several small villages, inhabited by a very civil inoffensive race of Hottentots, who raise a considerable number of cattle and sheep. But seventy-five miles farther inland the cattle and sheep are almost innumerable, and may be purchased at a very low rate; say twenty-five cents per bullock, and five cents for sheep; besides the skins of other animals,
ostrich feathers, and ivory. At that distance the land is very fertile, and would produce any thing put into the soil.

But the farther you advance into the interior, beyond one hundred and twenty miles, the larger and more numerous are the herds of cattle, which may be purchased for a still lower price, to be delivered and paid for on the sea coast. There is no more danger in travelling into the interior of this part of Africa than there is in travelling from New York to Boston; providing the travelling party take no arms with them, and no more wearing-apparel than is absolutely necessary. On all my excursions into the interior of this country I was careful to go unarmed, and dressed in nothing but a pair of duck trousers and a duck frock. Thus presenting nothing to excite their cupidity, I was invariably treated by the natives with the greatest kindness and hospitality, as they would freely share with me their last morsel of food. I should not hesitate, therefore, to travel across the continent of Africa, if suitable encouragement were offered, as I am confident that the enterprise would be attended with no personal hazard so far as the natives are concerned.

September 24th.—Seventeen miles to the northward of Possession island is Angra Pequena Bay, where we arrived on Wednesday the 24th. The westernmost point on the south side of this bay is in lat. 26° 39' S., long. 15° 7' 30' E. This is a high bluff point, rendered conspicuous by a marble cross erected on the summit in 1486, by Bartholomew Diaz, a Portuguese navigator. This monument of his successful enterprise along the coast of Africa is still standing, after having braved the storms and heats of three centuries and a half. About four miles eastward of this cross is Angra Point, which has a small rocky reef, lying N.b.E., half a mile from the shore, between which and the point there are five fathoms of water. But I should always advise strangers to pass to the north of this reef, giving it a berth of half a mile. After passing the reef you will open a lagoon running in to the southward, between four and five miles, the entrance to which is one mile and a half wide; a clear passage, with seven fathoms in the middle of it, becoming gradually more shallow as you approach the head of the lagoon or either shore. After advancing about three miles up this lagoon, you will find four fathoms of water, muddy bottom, and here is the best anchorage under the western shore, about a quarter of a mile from the beach.

Two miles E.b.N. from Angra Point, and due east of the reef just mentioned, are two small islands, about one mile from the mainland, lying parallel with the coast, which runs here nearly north and south. Neither of these islands exceeds a mile in length; but the southern one shelters good anchorage in five fathoms of water, clay bottom. The best situation to anchor in on the east side of the south island is near its centre, about two cables' lengths from its shore; leaving a single rock, that lies level with the surface of the water, and nearly mid-channel, about half a mile to the north of this passage. This harbour may be entered and left with perfect safety, either from the north or south end of the island; but I can recommend the southern passage as being the most easy, and entirely clear from dangers. Twenty fathoms from either shore. The anchorage under the northern island is unsafe,
there being several sunken rocks between it and the mainland, which
do not always show themselves.

These two islands have once been the resort of immense numbers of
fur-seal, which were doubtless destroyed by the same plague which
made such devastation among them on Possession Island, as their re-
 mains exhibited the same appearance in both cases. Shags and pen-
guins had now taken entire possession of these two islands, in such
numbers that ships might procure any quantity of their eggs in the
months of September, October, and November; and have them entirely
fresh, by clearing out the old from the nests, and gathering the new
every morning. These islands present the appearance of volcanic pro-
ductions of an ancient date, as do also some of the mountains in the
interior of the mainland.

Navigators who visit this coast for the purpose of opening a trade
with the natives of the interior should make Angra Pequena their
principal rendezvous to the south. By travelling forty miles due east
from the sea, they will come to fresh water, and will meet with Hot-
ten tots who are very friendly, and may be trusted. This excursion,
however, thus far, is not pleasant, being over a barren sandy desert;
but every mile you proceed farther the prospect brightens, the soil be-
comes rich and fertile, and the country abounds with all the produc-
tions of the climate. The inhabitants soon become numerous, and the
grassy plains are covered with immense herds of fine cattle. The
forests remote from the villages are the hunting grounds of the natives,
where they kill or take various kinds of wild beasts for their valuable
skins; such as leopards, lions, zebras, gray foxes, &c., together with
birds of a beautiful plumage. Here are antelopes, sheep, and ostriches
in abundance; elephants, jackals, ant-bears, porcupines, hedgehogs,
baboons, apes, monkeys, &c. The country to the north-east of Angra
Pequena abounds with ores and minerals, which, together with ivory,
ostrich feathers, and other valuable articles, can be had low. The
bay of Angra Pequena affords an immense quantity of excellent fish,
of many different kinds, which may be caught either with a hook and
line or a seine.

Navigators have reported, and it is so marked on maps and charts,
that this region of the western coast of Africa is entirely destitute of
fresh water; and that none is to be found between the sixteenth and
thirty-first degrees of south latitude. This idea is founded in error; for
I have found many places, while travelling along near the seashore
on this coast, where fresh water may be had in any quantity by dig-
ging very shallow wells. To the north of Angra Pequena, about ten
miles, there are many fine springs of excellent fresh water, about one
mile from the sea coast, where any quantity of the pure limpid element
can be obtained for a dozen ships at a time. The naiads of these foun-
tains are female Hottentots, who, like the damsels of Padan-aram, are
drawing water for their flocks. They, as well as the other sex, are
very friendly, and will furnish a stranger with refreshments, and the
most trusty guides, if he wishes to penetrate the interior. I have expe-
rienced their fidelity in many extensive excursions; and therefore
speak from practical knowledge. Ten or twelve families are generally
near each of those springs.
I can also refute another erroneous statement respecting this coast. It is said there is a dangerous shoal lying between three and four leagues to the west of Angra Pequena, in lat. 26° 35’ S. But I can assert, with the greatest degree of confidence, that there is but one shoal on any part of this coast, south of Spencer’s Bay, that lies more than four miles from the mainland; and this one lies N.N.W. from Angra Pequena, or Santa Cruz, about fifteen miles.

October 2nd.—On Thursday we got under way, and steered to the south, to examine a few rocks which lie about one mile off-shore from the mainland, and nearly half-way between Possession island and Angra Pequena, or Santa Cruz. These rocks are small, but evidently of volcanic origin, and have fine anchorage between them and the mainland, in five fathoms of water, sandy bottom, sheltered from all winds. But their greatest attraction in our estimation was their dense population of fur-seal, with which they were literally covered. We of course secured a few of these animals, or rather a few of their valuable jackets. In going into the anchorage just mentioned, you pass the north point of the ledge, leaving the rocks on your right hand, half a cable’s length distant, and then haul immediately round to the south, and anchor abreast of the middle of the ledge, about mid-channel.

October 6th.—From this anchorage we steered once more to the north, and passing Angra Pequena we arrived at Ichaboe Island on Monday, the 6th of October. This island, which is about one mile in circumference, lies eight leagues to the north and west of Angra Pequena, and not more than a mile and a half from the shore. On the east side of this island ships may anchor in perfect safety, in five fathoms of water, sand and clay bottom, about two cables’ length from the shore. The safety and convenience of this anchorage are owing to the following circumstances:—A point of land from the continent extends three or four miles into the sea, to the south of the island; and from the extremity of this point a reef puts off in a north-west direction, until it nearly meets a reef that projects from the west side of the island. Another reef puts off from the north-east point of the island; consequently a bay is formed, in which a ship might lie all the year round, in perfect safety and smooth water. But in coming to this anchorage care should always be taken to pass round the north* end of the island, giving its north-east point a berth of half a mile, which will avoid all dangers. In working into this harbour the shore on the main may be approached within two cables’ length.

This is a fine place for making captive the great leviathan of the ocean, the right whale, great numbers of which strike on this part of the coast about the middle of June. They are in the habit of playing about the reefs of the island, and that which runs from the continental point before mentioned; and as the south wind generally prevails, there is no difficulty in getting the dead whale alongside the ship. Scale-fish may be caught at the anchorage with hook and line; or at the bottom of the bay with a seine, in great quantities. An abundance of crawfish may also be caught with a hoop-net, all around the island, within fifty fathoms of the shore.

Eggs also may be obtained here in great quantities. In the months

* South.—Ed.
of October and November this island is literally covered with jackass-penguins and gannets, which convene here for the purposes of laying and incubation. The nests of the gannets are formed like those of the albatross, but are not so much elevated; while the jackass-penguins lay their eggs in holes in the ground, from twelve to thirty inches in depths, which they guard with the strictest vigilence. I have seen them stand at the entrance of these holes and protect their eggs or young ones with the most resolute perseverance, until they were removed by superior physical strength. They frequently lay three or four eggs, but the gannet seldom lays more than two.

This island is formed of volcanic materials, and its shores are resorted to by multitudes of fur-seal; we took about one thousand of their skins in a few days. The surface of this island is covered with birds’ manure to the depth of twenty-five feet. The south-east part of the bay, on the mainland, directly opposite the island, is the finest place on this part of the coast for jerking beef, it being only four miles from a Hottentot village, and the springs of fresh water before mentioned, which will supply any number of cattle. Here also I travelled into the interior to a considerable distance, and found that the farther I advanced to the north-east the more numerous were the herds of cattle and flocks of sheep: while the skins of leopards, gray foxes, &c., could be obtained with the utmost facility; together with ivory, ostrich feathers, and other valuable products of the country.

October 20th.—Having taken as many fur-seal skins as was practicable, we weighed anchor on Monday, the 20th, and steered to the north, carefully examining the coast for fur-seal. I had now fully made up my mind that a series of voyages to this coast for jerking beef, and trading for other articles with the natives, would prove a most brilliant enterprise, and make fortunes for all concerned. So fully was I impressed with this idea, that I determined to propose it to my employers immediately on my return, not doubting for a moment that they would view it in the same favorable light. In the last particular I found myself mistaken, as I have already mentioned. But it really appears astonishing to me that some men of capital do not see the golden opportunity at a single glance, and seize on it with avidity. An investment of thirty thousand dollars only, if properly managed, would in two years produce a profit of from ten to fifteen hundred dollars per cent!

(To be continued.)

Experiment with Colt’s Submarine Battery.—A trial of Colt’s submarine battery was made on the Potomac, below Washington, on the 15th ult. The ship destined for the experiment was put steadily on her course up the channel, towards the Navy Yard, and, when the officers had left her, and the signal was given, a powerful battery exploded a quarter of a mile a-head of her. In another moment two more exploded on her larboard side. In the next instant the Styx was sent bow foremost up into the air. When the vapour had cleared away the bow and waist of the ship were invisible. They were riven into fragments. The stern, together with a part of the mizen-mast, were visible, but sunk down as far as it could into the mud, the water being but eight feet.—Hampshire Advertiser.
for that Peublo. The spot adapted for anchorage is a very confined space, with sandy bottom, close to the reefs, and must be quitted the moment a northerly wind threatens. I am informed that several vessels have been driven off, and unable to purchase their anchors, with the length of cable out, have cut away, or slipped anchor and cable. This Plan therefore, may be considered as the cause of much mischief, as tempting vessels to resort to a very bad anchorage.

During the south-west monsoon, other shelter must be looked for, and probably will be found under the north-east part of the Island Sabtan. It has not yet been sounded.

On Batan, two very deep bays appear to offer shelter on the north-east side of the island, the northern (and best) Souson; the other Mananiyo; but both contain many rocks. They have not been sounded.

During the north-east monsoon strong winds prevail amongst these islands: The currents are occasionally strong between the islands of Batan and those northerly; the flood of Batan setting to the south-west, and the ebb to north-east.

The following prices were agreed upon by the Alcalde and Priests, as affording them fair remuneration, and to which they guaranteed to conform in future.

Bullocks, 1st class, 10 dol.; 2nd class, 8 dol.; 3rd class, 4 dol.;
Goats, 1st class, 1 dol., 2nd cl. 75 cents, 3rd cl. 3-37-5 cents; Pigs (doo.) 1st cl 2 dol., 2nd cl. 1 dol.; Pigs 1st class 6 dol., 2nd cl. 3 dol., 3rd cl. 75 cents to 50 and 25; Eggs (per 100) 1 dol.

Vegetables—Yams (per 100) 1 dol.50 cents; Ducais 75 cents; Sweet Potatoes, 50 cents; Onions, (per cwt.) 5 dol.; Pumpkins (per 100) 3 dol.; Cocos, (per 100) 25 cents; Cocoa Nuts (per doz.) 125 cents.

The following are the positions fixed on these islands:—Ibugos or Bashee Island, north-eastern angle, lat. 20° 19' 30" S., long. 121° 48' 0" E., Variation 00' 30" W. San Domingo Casa Real lat. 20° 27' 26" N., long. 121° 57' 6" E., Variation 0° 0' 30" W.

EDWARD BELCHER,
Captain.

THE COAST OF AFRICA FROM THE CAPE COLONY TO Ichaboe ISLAND.

By Captain Morell.

(Continued from p 374.)

October 22nd.—On Wednesday, the 22nd of October, we anchored on the east side of Mercury Island, in four fathoms of water, about two cables' length from the island, which is situated in lat. 25° 42' S., long. 14° 58' E. It is one mile in circumference, of an oblong shape, lying north and south, and is three-quarters of a mile north from the south-west point of Spencer's Bay, and one mile and a half west from the north-east point of the same bay. Both passages are easy, and free

* Admiralty Plan.
TO ICHABOE ISLAND.

from dangers; and the best anchorage is on the east side of the island, about one hundred and fifty fathoms from its shores, in five fathoms of water, sand and clay bottom. I would not advise ships to anchor to the south side of the bay, as a heavy westerly swell heaves into it, on the full and change of the moon; but let them anchor close under the island, and they will lie perfectly safe, in smooth water.

The south point of Spencer's Bay presents several high peaked rocks, nearly six hundred feet perpendicular, at the waters' edge. Whales frequent this bay in considerable numbers, in the months of July and August. Seal of the fur kind also frequent the shores of Mercury Island, while its summit is thickly inhabited by penguins and gannets, during their laying and incubation season. The shores and surface of the island, present many specimens of volcanic productions, as do also those of the continent in this vicinity, extending some distance into the country.

There is a Hottentot village about forty miles on an east-by-south course from the head of the bay, containing about two hundred and fifty inhabitants, and situated in a fertile valley, watered by several springs of excellent fresh water. There are also four refreshing springs between the village and the bay. The interior of the country abounds in cattle, sheep, deer, bucks, wolves, gray foxes, elephants, and ostriches, in greater numbers than it does farther south; which may be had for any price you please to give, in the way of barter; for money would be of no more use to them than an equal weight of sand would be to us. Offer them such articles as their circumstances require, and they will trade in the most liberal and honest manner.

I am aware that most people have imbibed the mistaken idea that these natives are treacherous, and cruel, and bloodthirsty, and every thing that is bad. It is no such thing. I make the assertion on personal experience and practical knowledge. There is no more danger in travelling two or three hundred miles in the interior of this country for the purpose of purchasing cargoes, than there is in travelling among our own Indians in the state of New-York; provided you take no temptations with you, and no other arms than a musket. Whatever you purchase of the natives is sold in good faith, to be paid for according to contract on the delivery of the articles at the beach, and not before. Under this arrangement, they could not defraud you, were they so disposed; and were there no other safeguard for your person, the prospect of this payment would be amply sufficient. But their natural dispositions are friendly and humane; and if you treat them with kindness, they will repay your favours more than ten to one. When they deliver the cattle and other articles at the beach, give them the articles in return for which they stipulated, and they are satisfied; but I would recommend a little extension of courtesy on these occasions, by presenting their chiefs a few tasteful trifles which may attract their attention. Whatever you bestow in this way, will not be thrown away, but returned to you sevenfold in some other shape, or on some other occasion.

While on this subject, with a special reference to the purchase of cattle and the jerking of beef, it may be well to mention that there are many salt-springs in the valleys at the head of Spencer's Bay, where
salt might be manufactured in immense quantities, if properly attended to. But perhaps it would be full as cheap to bring the article from the Cape Verd Islands, to jerk your beef and cure your hides; which is necessary to prevent the invasion of bugs and other insects.

November 6th.—After taking about a thousand fur-seal skins from Mercury Island, and examining the interior of the country at a great distance inland, we got under way, on Thursday, the 6th of November, and steered to the north, for Bird Island, where we arrived on the following day.

This little island, which is not more than the fourth of a mile in circumference, is in lat. 24° 38' S., long. 14° 22' E., and about three leagues from the mainland. A reef of rocks runs off from it, in a southwest direction, about five miles, on which the sea breaks at times very heavy. A vast number of right whales frequent this reef in the months of July and August; and a ship may lie at anchor on the north side of the island, in ten fathoms of water, all the whaling season, in perfect safety, if she has chain cables. This island is resorted to by seal, gannets, and penguins; and we took here the skins of fourteen hundred fur-seal at one time, although the landing was very bad. The passage between the island and the continent is about nine miles in width, free from hidden dangers, with a depth of water from twenty to ten fathoms, near the mainland.

The Alligator Rock, as laid down on the chart, I could not find, after two days spent in the search. I therefore conclude that there is no such reef, but that Bird Island has been seen in a haze, and mistaken for a danger which does not actually exist. The extreme haziness of the weather peculiar to this coast might very easily have deceived Captain Wood, of his Britannic Majesty's ship Garland, when he thought he had discovered a reef here, in 1798; for I have frequently been running along this coast, not more than one league from the land, when the sand-hills which line this part of the coast have appeared to be five or six leagues from the vessel.

I have no doubt that Bird Island is the effect of some mighty convulsion of nature, which has piled together in an irregular form loose blocks of stone, basalt, lava, and other volcanic productions. The waters around its shores, however, abound with many kinds of excellent scale-fish, which may be caught with hook and line in great quantities. A few turtle, also, may be found on a small sandy beach on the east side of the island.

November 16th.—On Sunday, the 16th of November, we left Bird Island, and continued our examination of the coast to the northward, with a gentle breeze from south-by-west, and fair weather.

On Tuesday, the 18th, we arrived at the mouth of what is called Sandwich Harbour, said to have three fathoms of water in its channel of entrance. Although we found only eleven feet at high water in this channel, I have no doubt there was a time, some years back, when its depth was full three fathoms, and that it has been filled up by drifts of sand, the movements of which along this coast forcibly reminded me of the snow-drifts of my native country; every fresh southerly wind forming new sand hills, exactly as new snow-banks are formed at home, by a fine, clear, cold north-wester.
This lagoon runs into the southward, about two leagues, with seven, five, three, and two fathoms, nearly all over it. It is formed on the east by a high white bluff sand hill; and on the west by a low sandy peninsula nearly level with the sea; with shoal water on the seaboard side for more than a mile to seaward. The entrance of the lagoon is very narrow, being not more than a quarter of a mile wide, and formed by two low sandy points, situated in lat. 23° 35' S., long. 14° 28' E. Variation per azimuth in 1828, 23° 15' westerly.

Perhaps there is not a finer place on the whole coast than this for taking fish with the seines. Many different kinds of fish resort to this lagoon; one of which bears a strong resemblance to our "streaked bass," and is as fat and delicate-flavoured fish as our salmon. There are many other sorts, equally good, but of a smaller size. Many cargoes of fish might be taken from this lagoon in a short time; and they would sell for a good price at St. Helena, Cape of Good Hope, Isle of France, or the Isle of Bourbon. Green turtle also visit the sandy beaches for the usual purposes.

November 22nd.—We left Ponta dos Ilhos, or Sandwich Harbour, on Thursday, the 20th, and steered to the northward, examining the coast in search of fur-seal; and on Saturday, the 22nd, we arrived at Walwich Bay, the west point of which is very low, and lies in latitude 22° 53' S., long. 14° 24' E. The entrance to the bay is one league broad, running to the south two leagues; one league and a half of which is navigable, and the depth of water in going in is from twelve fathoms to three, mud and clay bottom near the head of the bay.

The east side of this bay is formed by moderately elevated sandhills, near the sea shore, and the west side is formed by a very low sandy peninsula, not more than fifteen feet above the level of the sea at any place. The isthmus is very narrow, it being not more than twenty rods from the head of the bay to the seashore. The peninsula, however, is from one to three miles in width. In entering this bay, it is necessary to give the west point a good berth, of nearly half a mile, on account of a sand-bank that runs off from it, in a N.N.E. direction about a quarter of a mile, on which there is only six feet of water at low tide. After doubling this point, in advancing up the bay, it is proper to give the western shore a berth of one-fourth of a mile; taking care not to approach to it any nearer, as the water becomes shallow very suddenly, from five fathoms to two, and even to four feet, at low water. This is a mud bank, which stretches all along the western and southern shore of this bay; but the eastern shore is bold one cable's length from the beach, nearly to the head of the bay.

This bay and its vicinity, in the months of August and September, are visited by great numbers of right whales, which resort thither for the purpose of bringing forth their young. Fish also, of various kinds, and in great abundance, may be caught here with a seine; but it is difficult to haul the seine on shore in any part of the bay excepting the eastern shore, on account of the mud flats. Ships visiting this bay for the purpose of taking whales in the months before named, should anchor about half a mile within the bay, under the western shore, in five fathoms of water, muddy bottom. In this situation they will be enabled to see whales from the mast-head, outside of the bay beyond.
the peninsula; and at the same time lie in safety, as northerly winds never blow here more than a royal breeze, and that for a few hours only. They will also gain much time, and save much labour, in getting the whales alongside the ship; as the wind blows nearly all the time from the south; and often, in the afternoon, a single-reef breeze. But it is generally calm at night, and in the fore-part of the day. The water is entirely smooth all over the bay, and consequently it is a safe as well as a spacious harbour at any season of the year.

The interior of the country to the eastward of this bay presents a dreary range of desert sandy mountains and valleys, entirely destitute of soil, or vegetation of any kind, for twenty or twenty-five miles inland, with the exception of a few valleys that lie to the E.S.E. and south-east of the head of the bay, in which are a few Hottentot villages, with small herds of cattle and sheep, that feed on such coarse grass and shrubbery as they can pick up.

About three miles from the south-east part of the bay, on a S.E.b.F. course, is a small village, where fresh water may be had from many springs in the valley. This water possesses a peculiar flavour, not unlike sassafras tea, but it is not in the least brackish. The village contains about two hundred and fifty inhabitants, who often visit the bay for the purpose of fishing. I have frequently had them on board the vessel, and have purchased from them cattle and sheep, which were in fine order. I uniformly found them to be a very friendly, harmless, inoffensive people, but very indolent and filthy, and somewhat given to thieving.

Their tents or wigwams resemble those I have seen near the Strait of Magellan, and are sufficiently capacious to accommodate two or three persons. A number of poles are stuck in the ground, in a circular form, the tops of which are fastened together in a point by a leather thong. Over the summit of this conic frame is thrown a bullock’s hide, to which others are attached, until the simple habitation is completely protected from the weather. Their clothing is made of the skins of the gray fox, the deer, the leopard, &c., sewed together with sinews of the animals, in the form of a blanket, which they throw over the shoulders, with the hair side next to their bodies, being tied around the neck, and hanging down to the feet. Both sexes dress in the same manner, the female being distinguished only by the profusion of her ornaments: these consist of shells, bones, and minerals of different kinds, and are worn about the neck and wrists: but the men have nothing of the kind.

Though the sole wealth of this people consists of cattle and sheep, they derive much of their sustenance from the ocean. Their implements for fishing and hunting are the spear and the bow; the former is made of a heavy hard wood, and is generally about sixteen feet in length; this wood resembles our yellow ebony, but the grain is not quite so fine. Their bows are made of the same kind of wood, and measure about five feet in length, being two inches wide in the centre. The arrows are of reed, about three feet long, and pointed with hard wood and flint. Both sexes are very expert with these weapons. I have frequently seen them shoot gulls on the wing at fifty yards’ distance; and they seldom fail of placing the arrow in the body of the
bird. They are equally expert with the spear in catching fish,—frequently striking one of seven to ten pounds' weight at the distance of twenty-five to thirty yards. Their fishing excursions generally detain them from home three or four days: they salt all the fish which they take over and above what they consume on the spot, which they always eat raw, and the small ones are devoured without even divesting them of their entrails. They procure their salt from the springs at the head of the bay.

In appeasing the cravings of hunger these people are, in fact, horribly disgusting to a civilized person,—being actually fonder of the entrails of cattle and sheep than of any other part. On my killing some of these animals on the beach for the use of our crew, the natives devoured the entrails raw, before they were cold. I offered them some of the beef, but they refused it, and gave me to understand that the entrails were the best part of the creature in their estimation. In eating eggs, their fastidious delicacy is even more conspicuous; for they will not touch one until incubation is nearly perfected, protesting that fresh eggs are not fit for food. At their villages I observed that they roasted their beef, as they did also the flesh of wild beasts. The entrails, however, were seldom cooked, as the luxurious epicures preferred them warm from the animal.

When they have been successful in taking a great number of oceanic birds, which is often the case in the laying season, they bury them in the sand, with their entrails in them, until they become quite green. This takes all the fishy taste from them, and they become very tender. They then take out the entrails, skin the birds, and dry their bodies in the sun, which will so effectually cure them in forty-eight hours, that they may be laid away for twelve months without receiving any injury. Indeed such is the purity of the air, on this part of the coast, that I have had a quarter of fresh beef, weighing two hundred weight, hanging in the rigging until it became perfectly dry, without becoming tainted in the slightest degree, even next to the bone. What stronger evidence need be adduced to prove the excellence of this location for jerking beef? The atmosphere is pure, warm, and dry; and for ten months of the year there is scarcely a drop of rain. Very little falls during the other two months.

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Voyage of H.M.S. Thunderer to the Mauritius and back.
Notes by Mr. H. Davy, Master, R.N.—1843.

(Concluded from p. 391.)

Longwood is situate in the most healthy part of the island at an elevation of 1,762 feet above the sea level, and is about 6 miles from James Town; enjoying during the time the sun is hovering as it were over the country, a climate equal to that of England, at the same time that James Town and the valleys are almost scorched up. It is open to the trade wind, which comes up direct from the sea, and blows over the plain...