

has given rise to the employment of many vessels from some of the principal ports, both of England and Scotland, in this new branch of trade, is situated in 26 degrees, 13 minutes, 34 seconds, south latitude, a few miles (about twenty-two) north of Angra Pequena, a well determined position, which vessels bound for Ichaboe generally try to make. The main land for several hundred miles on both sides of Angra Pequena, presents to the eye of the mariner a barren, inhospitable, and dangerous line of seacoast; lying low, though backed with high land in the interior. The strong glare arising from the arid sand and the density of the atmosphere calls for the utmost vigilance and caution on the part of the master-mariner approaching it during the night; for if he once gets deceived, and into the current, which sets upon the shore, the destruction of his vessel is inevitable. Along this line of coast there is not the slightest symptom of vegetation: indeed, it is much to be questioned whether vegetation would thrive, whatever might be the quality of the soil, as no rains fall in that region. True, there are heavy dews, occasionally falling both day and night; but the cold is so severe, for such a high latitude, during the fogs, and the sun, when it does break forth, is so powerful and scorching, that, in all probability, between these alternating temperatures and opposite extremes of weather, no vegetation could survive.

The island itself is a barren, shelving rock, about a mile long from north to south, and a half a mile across at its broadest part, viz. from its south-west to its north-east point. It is bounded all round by reefs, except on its eastern side, where there is anchorage in from five to six fathoms. A portion of the island is in the form of a flat shelf, about 1100 feet long and 500 feet broad in the widest part. Upon this shelf is accumulated that deposit of guano which gives so much celebrity to the Island, and which varies in depth from 35 to 38 feet. Taking the average width of the deposit at 400 feet, and assuming the average depth to be 36 feet, the total quantity of guano will be about 158 millions of cubic feet.

As has already been remarked, there falls during the night a heavy dew, attended with piercing coldness of temperature; and even during the day, if the sun's rays be intercepted, a cold disagreeable sensation will be immediately experienced. On the sun again breaking forth, its rays speedily scorch the lips, and indeed the whole face and hands of every person of fair complexion; and the lips of very few will escape this tormenting annoyance. Our informant suffered the most excruciating pain in his lips, and the skin of his face and hands, from which the only relief he could find was by anointing the skin with hog's lard, in imitation of the custom of the inhabitants of the mainland, who profusely lubricate their persons with palm oil.

With reference to the guano itself the notes to which we refer express a decided opinion on the part of the writer, that the substance is not, as has been generally supposed, exclusively composed of the excrement of marine birds, which he believes to form only a comparatively small portion of the mass. He supposes it chiefly to consist of the decomposed bodies of marine birds and animals, together with the eggs of the former and the excrementitious matter of both. Among other facts and grounds for his adopting this opinion, he mentions the following:—He personally superintended the working or excavating of a pit of guano, 35 by 18 feet, and from all that came daily under his observation, he was inclined to the opinion that this

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