

with fresh provisions, etc. It is certainly a strange fact that people can be found to isolate themselves in such out-of-the-way places as this. It was on this island that Alexander Selkirk was landed in 1704, from a ship he was serving in at the time as master; and here he remained in solitude for more than four years. Eventually, on being rescued, and returning to England, he gave the narrative of his sojourn here to the great romancer of his day, Daniel Defoe, in order to prepare it for publication; and it was from the idea so furnished that the well-known story of "Robinson Crusoe" was formed. Anchoring in Cumberland Bay, we found it quite safe and pleasant. The bay has much the appearance of a huge crater of an old volcano, surrounded on all sides, except one (the entrance), with precipitous cliffs which are torn up into deep ravines and valleys.

The island is only some ten or twelve miles long, by four broad. The shore is formed by a steep, dark bare rock, rising up some 800 or 900 feet, through which wild ravines run. It is leased to a Chilian merchant, who employs all the settlers in cutting wood, tending cattle, etc., and during the season seal-hunting, when they usually capture some two thousand, the skins of which are at present worth \$16 each.

On the evening of the 15th November we left Cumberland Bay. On November 19th land was in sight, the highest of the Chilian Andes. It was a pleasing sight on approaching Valparaiso, which was full of shipping; and the appearance of the city to us, just come in from the turbulent sea, was very charming; the buildings extend along, row after row, for a considerable distance in front of the bay, and surmount the hillocks which rise at short distances from the shore. A three weeks' stay in the port of one of the principal commercial cities in South America made us quite familiar with the sights. Everything about the town—the houses, shops, and population—has quite a European aspect; so that go where one would, through streets and squares, with their lofty edifices, gay hotels, and large and splendid stores, abounding in everything that can minister to human requirements and luxury, it required but little stretch of the imagination to fancy oneself in some European capital. Banks, theatres, Masonic halls, and other edifices, are scattered over its length and breadth. Tram-cars run from one end of the city to the other. It is in communication with Europe by submarine cable.