

Lookout is an immense hill, which rises almost straight up from the shore and the top of which can be seen for miles around.

When Selkirk arrived in London his story became the talk of the town. It was told in all of the clubs and coffee houses, and Sir Richard Steele made a paper describing Selkirk's adventures in one of his papers. He tells how Selkirk at first landing in England seemed to have lost the character of the average man by his solitude, but now later on this strangeness wore off. Selkirk published a little pamphlet of twelve pages describing his wanderings. The bulk of the story of Robinson Crusoe, however, was from the brain of Daniel De Foe, and it was his genius that made it the greatest story of adventure the world has ever known. It was written in London and was first published 179 years ago. A copy of the first unabridged and original edition is to be seen in a glass case in the British museum library. Later editions have been considerably changed, and it is said there are few books which have been so mutilated by the printers. Robinson Crusoe is now to be found in almost every known language. It has been printed in Spanish, German, Italian, Russian, Greek and Arabic, and when I was in China a few years ago, I was told that a Chinese edition of the story was exciting the youthful minds among the celestials.

Had Robinson Crusoe been really cast upon Juan Fernandez he would probably have suffered more than he does in his story. The island is bleaker and colder than De Foe's picture of it. It is only twelve miles long by about seven miles wide, but parts of it are the picture of desolation. It is a great mass of rocks, which rises upward from the waters for more than a thousand feet. It is made up of hills and mountains, of little ravines and valleys. The northern half of the island is covered with a dense vegetation, as Mr. Spencer's photographs show, but the southern half is as bleak and bare as the western slopes of the Andes in the rear of the Peruvian desert. The most of the shores are inaccessible. The best landing place is at Cumberland bay, at which point there is now a fishing settlement which includes about all of the people of the island. There are, it is said, only fifteen people now living there. Back of the settlement on the bay there are cottages, or straw huts, which once formed the homes of quite a number of settlers who lived here. These huts are made of cane wattled with straw. There are gardens about some of them, and at one time there was an agricultural colony here. One man attempted to start a stock-raising plantation, and he had, it is said, as many as 30,000 head of cattle and an equal number of sheep grazing in the valleys on the north of the island. Of late, however, I am told that this business has almost entirely disappeared, the cattle are allowed to go wild and there are now on the island wild sheep, wild goats and wild mules. I give this statement on the authority of Photographer Spencer.

There is no doubt but that Juan Fernandez is a rich land as far as the soil of the northern part of it is concerned, and with this new colonizing scheme it may support quite a large number of people. The hills are covered now with wild oats, and there is good grass in every open spot. The fruit trees planted more than a hundred years ago by Selkirk and others have reproduced themselves, and there are many wild fruits, while the grapes which you find in the woods are as de-

licious as those which Robinson Crusoe dried for raisins. There are peaches, pears and quinces growing wild, and also wild vegetables. A peculiar plant is the panga, which has leaves forming a cup as big as an umbrella. This fills with water when it rains, and stays full as long as it is cloudy. When the sun comes out it begins to wilt, and the water flows out.

There are a number of caves on Juan Fernandez, and several are pointed out in which it is said that Alexander Selkirk lived. One of these which lies in a ridge of volcanic rock, is as large as the average parlor, with a roof from ten to fifteen feet above the floor. The door to this cave is about fifteen feet high and its extent to the rear at least thirty feet. It shows signs of having been lived in. There are little holes or pockets scooped out of the walls, such as are mentioned in Robinson Crusoe's description of his cave-home, and here and there on the walls you see rusty nails which were once used by those who have lived here in the past. It is said that the cave was the resort of the buccaneers who once ravaged the coasts and ships of this part of the world. The nails may have been driven into the walls by them, and from the same source probably comes a stone oven which has been built in the rear of the cave. Other caves are covered with ferns and the vegetation is so luxuriant that it is easy to imagine that Selkirk, like Robinson Crusoe, might have set out hedges about his caves, which would soon have become walls of trees and have hidden them from view.

At one time Chile had a penal settlement on Juan Fernandez. More than a thousand criminals were kept here under the charge of a governor and guards. You can still see the ruins of the fortifications of that time. One of the sights of the island are the damp and fern-covered dungeons which were dug out of the bluff facing the harbor. These dungeons were among the most horrible ever constructed by Spanish cruelty for the torture of men. They were entered by vaulted passages which led from one damp chamber to another. They were without ventilation and were as dark as Egypt at the time of the plague. Some of the cells were far underground and were so small that their occupants could not stand upright within them. The prisoners at one time murdered the guards and 300 of them escaped and landed on the shores of Chile. Here they were captured and were taken to Valparaiso and shot. The other prisoners who had been left upon the island escaped, and by different ships found their way to other countries.

There is a monument to Selkirk on the island of Juan Fernandez. It is a marble tablet set in the rocks at Robinson Crusoe's "Lookout." It was placed there by some English naval officers about thirty years ago. The inscription reads as follows:

In Memory of
Alexander Selkirk,
Mariner,

A native of Largo, in the County of Fife, Scotland, who lived on this island, in complete solitude,
four years and four months.

He was landed from the Chinque Ports galley, 96 tons, 18 guns, A. D. 1704, and was taken off in the Duke, privateer, 12th February, 1709.

He died Lieutenant of H. M. S. Weymouth, A. D. 1723, aged 47 years.

This Tablet is erected near Selkirk's lookout by Commodore Powell and the officers of H. M. S. Topaze, A. D. 1868.

The uninhabited Galapagos Islands off

the coast of Ecuador have more recently had an Alexander Selkirk. This man was deserted by his companions, and when found years afterward he was quite naked and was carrying a pig on his back. He had lived upon fruits and roots, and had caught wild cattle in traps and had killed them with a spear made of a pocket knife tied to a stick. His hut was made of the hides of such cattle, of which there were a number on the island, having been left there years ago, when the place was used as a penal colony for Ecuador.

Other interesting islands are found in the great archipelago which lies between here and Cape Horn. These I shall travel among on my way around the southern end of South America. The most interesting of all the Pacific islands, however, are the Guano Islands. They are, in proportion to their size, the richest islands of the world, for they have already added more than one billion dollars to the world's wealth. Think of pulling a billion dollars out of a dunghill. That is what Peru has dug out of her guano islands. Her creditors are getting something out of them today, although nothing like the enormous sums realized in the past. These guano islands are scattered all along the coast of Peru. I first saw them north of Lima, near the shores of Salavary, and at Pacasmayo a guano ship from the Lobos Islands came in for mail and provisions. Off the Bay of Pisco, Peru, I saw the famous Chincha Islands, which have produced more than twelve million tons of this bird manure, and have brought into the Peruvian treasury millions upon millions of dollars. The shipping of guano is going on from these islands today, although the deposits are to a large extent exhausted. The American firm of Grace & Co. of Lima have the contracts for loading the ships, and they have docks and machinery at the various islands for getting the guano out of the earth and on to the vessels. I am told that the shipments of the current year will not probably exceed 30,000 tons.

The Guano Islands are merely masses of volcanic rocks which have risen up out of the ocean. They have not a blade of grass nor any green thing on them, and are merely rocky islands covered with a ragged white deposit. It never rains upon them, and for thousands of years the manure upon them and lay and grew in quantity from age to age. For some reason or other, the pelicans, sea gulls and other birds which feed by the millions in the waters of these parts of the world have chosen these islands as their nightly roosting places. They pick out certain of them and age after age, year after year, and night after night, they fly to them by the thousands and there rest. There are often other islands near which to all appearance are quite as desirable, but which are untouched. Even the disturbance caused by the removing of the guano does not seem to prevent the birds' returning to their roost. On the Chincha Islands, which were supposed to be entirely exhausted, fresh deposits of guano have recently been made, and in 1894 30,000 tons of new guano was actually shipped.

Nearly every one knows that guano is the excrement of birds. A sea gull, which is one of the smallest of the guano-producing birds, will drop from four to six ounces of excrement a day and in the breeding season of ten weeks about twenty-eight pounds. Other birds produce more, and the many little deposits throughout the ages have made these vast quantities. Guano has, however, other things mixed with it. The material taken from the beds is made up also of dead seals, who crawl upon the guano rocks to die. There