

Copy  
Report of Capt. Fretting  
on the State of the Islands

Dated 31 March 1833

See the Summary & with

107 in the Table of Contents  
5000 words



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Report of the State of the Falkland Islands.  
by Commander Fitzroy H. M. Sloop Beagle  
31<sup>st</sup>. March 1833.

In the outer appearance of the Falkland Islands there is nothing by which a stranger would be much interested. From any point of view barren hills sloping towards a low and rugged coast without a tree almost without a bush are the only objects on which the eye can rest.

Some hills rise from sea to sea about 1000 feet above the sea the highest, which may be called a mountain, does not exceed 2500 feet.

3. Around the Islands and especially towards the S.E. and S.W. coasts there are numerous Falls and Racks more or less dangerous to shipping according to their size or distance from the shore.

4. Near the land there are strong tides causing in some places waves & rippling dangerous to boats and disagreeable to small vessels, the tide at Flood comes from the southward towards the Heads of Islands, afterwards carrying on directions as it winds through the various openings in the land; at the Foot the tide is stronger than at the Eastern extreme and it sets to the Northward more strongly than in the opposite direction at the full and the change of the Moon it is high water at five, the tide rises a fathom.

5. The winds are variable, very violent and seldom at rest, during the summer a still day is a phenomenon, the nights generally speaking are less boisterous than the days, but neither by day or night now nor at any season of the year are these Islands exempt from violent squalls and heavy gales, which for a few hours blow with much fury, that this may be called the southern Roaring Gales of wind and passing squalls are more sudden and more furious from the southern quarter, between S.E. and S.W. than from any other direction. Wind from the East is rare and still more rarely strong, N.E. and N. winds being gloomy overcast weather with much rain. S. winds also bring clouds and rain. During summer the winds are generally from the S.W. and during the winter from the N.W. quarter. Fogs are not infrequent occurrences and seldom last through the day, they sometimes accompany late

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by winds and settled weather, neither thunder or lightning are at all common. In the winter there is generally speaking not so much wind, as in the summer. In the former season though colder, the weather is more dry and more settled.

6<sup>th</sup> The Barometer or Symplicometer gives simple warning of any material change in the weather, it should always be consulted. Mr. Williams saw both knowing and well known in these regions, said to me "The barometer was invaluable, some such like it hereabouts, because it is always settling the weather, but how often do we have any other? - Alder's Symplicometer is equally useful, far cheaper and far more portable."

7<sup>th</sup> Seasons vary considerably, the weather may frequently be found better than it is here described, yet as this account is the result of inquiry made in all quarters, I don't think their average character will be found very different. January, February & March are the most windy, though warmest months. May - June and July though cold, are less stormy, but those who have gained the most experience assure me, that no extent can be placed on periodical changes and that by those who do so can only suppose that if a month is fine in one year, the next it will be probably the reverse.

8<sup>th</sup> If the Climate was less cold and less windy, it might be considered that which is termed a "Island Climate"; it is neither hot, neither is it extremely cold but the average temperature is low, and being accompanied with high winds and frequent showers, the cold is more noticed than during dry and settled weather. During the last twenty years Fahrenheit's Thermometer has once been at 22° at Noon and once at 80° in the shade, it has seldom been below 50° in the winter or about 70° in the summer, the average height is nearly 55°. Ice has not been known to reach one furlong in the channel, snow seldom lies upon the ground on low lands or seldom exceeds one or two inches in depth. Rain does not continue falling any considerable time and owing to the strong winds the evaporation is great - the climate is exceedingly healthy, I am hear of no diseases contracted on the Islands and more serene than temperary coasts.

9<sup>th</sup> Harbours easy of access and affording good shelter with the very best holding ground, abound amongst the Islands and afford

protection from the numerous gulls.

10. The western Island was surveyed many years ago by Lieut. Egmont, R. N., and his Chart bears a high character amongst those who have used it on the spot; some exceptions are made, the Saan Islands at the N. W. and a Reef near them, in which a French Brig struck - also a small portion of the southern side are said to be incorrectly laid down. Of the East Falkland, only Beekly Sound has been carefully examined; but the position of the two Eastern and most material points, are well ascertained and their places appear to be, within a trifle, the same as those assigned to them in the Charts, copied from Spanish originals. The plan of Beekly Sound, which accompanies this paper, will guide a ship to the anchorage which suits her best, when she is within its limits. The Volcanic Rocks run out under water and should have a berth of two miles, until the exact extent of the Reef is ascertained. Should proper making the Island from the Northward rather to the westward of the Eastern extreme, as to immense being to windward & coming from the Eastward, should not approach the South East side, South of Cape Pembroke, for it is very dangerous and as yet unsurveyed - a stranger should be contented about the squalls and when at anchor, should secure his ship well. On approaching the land and particularly when entering a harbor, a good look out should be kept for the help the seaweed, which grows on all the rocks under water, and reaching the surface, points out, like a buoy, the lurking danger. There are full plants grow upon all rocks that are not more than six fathoms under water. Large masses of drift help are frequently seen on the surface of the water, lying in a confused state; they need not be noticed but whose long stalks spread out regularly and lie all one way about the shore carefully until it has been well sounded.

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11. The wrecks of three large vessels, two American Whalers and one French Whaling vessel, lie on the shore of Beekly Sound and warn the stranger to moor his ship securely and make her snug aloft with good ground tackle, properly dressed and proper precaution as to masts & yards, such as would be observed in every English Port, a ship will lie in absolute safety, as the holding ground is exceedingly good but it without common care she rides with a short scope, fiddle and keeps every thing aloft ready for sea, it is not probable that such vessels, as these wrecks ships, should pass her by safely. In Beekly Sound the anchorage where the best winter safely with ease of access, communication with the settlement and convenient watering is in Johnsons Harbour, well up towards North West Creek. From the head of this Creek the walk to Port Louis is

short. In Parkley sound from near in the morning until late in the afternoon is in general the most windy part of the day, while the weather is tolerably settled, the holding ground is very, being a very tenacious clay, that after being some time down, difficulty will be found in weighing the anchor. Merchant vessels have come up and down at low water and weighed by the tide, when they have found their usual convenience.

13. The most abundant Geological formation on the East Firthland Isles, is Quartz Rocks of this the more elevated parts are composed, these intermediate and most level are of dayslate, sandstone, in which beautiful impressions of shells occur in beds, in this clay formation when the slate is a layer of clay fit for making bricks and near the surface, where it is of a lighter quality, the moss mixed with decayed vegetable remains good for cultivation as well as for the growth of tuns. In some Land and for a great extent, the clay is covered by a very solid layer of peat, varying in depth from two to ten feet. The solidity of the peat is surprising and it may be quite ironed, whether the whole mass is of ancient date or whether it is of modern formation, and is now increasing. - This peat burns well and prevents the want of fuel. To the clay and solidity of the peat one must attribute the numerous bogs, pools of standing water, and running streams rather than to the wetness of the climate. Towards and upon the heights the rocks are bare and broken into fragments.

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13. The view from the heights is dismal a succession of moorland and bog, extending as far as the eye can reach, intersected by innumerable pools of water and running streams of a yellowish brown hue, varied only by black patches of bog.

14. But this is partly a deception, much even of what appears a barren moor, is sandy clay soil, on which is a thin layer of vegetable mould, covered by shrubby low bushes and a coarse grass, which gives ample maintenance to herds of wild cattle and horses: from the heights one does not see into many of the valleys where this is good soil and much pasture. There are not any tuns on the Isles, a small low shrub is used for kindling fires, in which peat is the substitute for wood or coal; the country is remarkably easy of access to persons on foot as well as on horseback; but the halcyonated circuit, Rabbit burrows and bogs, oblige both horse and rider to keep a sharp look out.

15. The settlement made by Bonnet is upon the spot formerly occupied by the Spaniards and is known by the name of Port Louis. There are ten or twelve substantial Cottages and several huts scattered over half a mile of rising ground, standing in an exposed situation, without a tree or even a bush near it. The little village has a black and uncomfortable appearance. There are now about 20 persons belonging to the settlement under the direction of Mr. Matthew Perisiani, an intelligent enterprising and very deceiving person, who has struggled against fortune for some years, as master of sealing vessels and is now engaged in Mr. Bonnet's affairs at the Falkland Islands.

16. There are at the settlement about 300 tame cattle and 20 horses,

Butter & Cheese have been made of an excellent quality.

17. Good fresh water is abundant.

18. Fuel at present sufficiently plentiful even for shipping, as much wreck & drift wood is scattered along the shore.

19. There are several spaces at Port Louis fit for the mast and yards of a merchant vessel or small man of war.

20. While the Spaniards were residing on these Islands, Horses, Cattle and Horses have surprisingly increased. Hogs also have multiplied, but not so much. Fifteen thousand head of cattle and nine thousand Horses now wander at large about the East Falkland; the cattle are very large and fat.

21. On the Island there are foxes or rather wolves differing from any other kind excepting these and rats and mice, whose origin may be doubted, there are no other indigenous quadrupeds.

22. Rabbits have increased as they would in a warren.

23. During summer fish swarm in the creek, and a very delicate fish resembling a trout may be found in the fresh water pools - there are numerous scophis a species of haps about two feet in length these burrow in depth; it takes salt well and is exported hence to the River Plate & Rio Janeiro.

24. Geese of three kinds and many species of ducks are extremely numerous and very tame.

25. There is a small bush called the tealant which used as a Spice, gives as good a flavour and fragrance to the water, that I have seen it drunk as China Tea without its taste being detected as different or disagreeable - a small berry of a pleasant taste, grows on it and when ripe, is fit to be gathered and eaten as fruit.



15000 Cattle  
5000 Horses

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- 27<sup>th</sup> Since the destruction of the then thriving Colony of N. Vermont and that of the industrious settlers by Capt. Duncan of the United States Corvett Levington, no progress has been made in the cultivation of the ground, the gardens are over-run with weeds and the poor Colonists are almost at the visit of strangers.
- 28<sup>th</sup> Though the British flag now waves over their heads, the Gauchos, who are the more numerous of the little Colony are too ignorant to be aware of its magic influence.
- 29<sup>th</sup> Their only care at present is to catch and kill cattle for daily maintenance and for sale to such strangers as will give ten Silver Dollars for each animal.
- 30<sup>th</sup> Potatoes and turneps were growing well, but are now neglected.
- 31<sup>th</sup> Wheat has succeeded as a trial and also flax, the quality of each was considered good.
- 32<sup>th</sup> Meat taken out remarkably well in this climate, the meat itself is of very good quality. Having now endeavored to describe the present state of the Southland, I will mention what improvement and future advantage may be expected.

Part 2<sup>d</sup>

- 1<sup>st</sup> An extremely large number of Ships annually pass near the Southlands, in going to the Pacific, as well as in entering the Atlantic, the position of few places is better known than their Eastern Coast, and most vessels in passing make the land, in order to verify their System.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Local circumstances such as the relative position of the land, the sets of the tides or currents or prevailing winds contribute to make St. Vincente far easier of access, safer to approach than either Cape St. Peter, Skaten Island or Cape Horn.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Were a hospitable reception, easy or rather no paid, and a supply of fresh provisions certain to attend the entrance of a Ship into Berkeley Sound, by far the greater number of Ships would enter.
- 4<sup>th</sup> They now pass on, because they neither know what is

to be found, nor with whom they are to deal; vague and contradictory statements have been circulated, and without certain knowledge, surely you would delay their voyage.

- 4<sup>th</sup> How many vessels were put into Rio and how many high seas, many for water and fresh provisions which might be obtained without going out of their way, at a small expense in Barbadoes.
- 5<sup>th</sup> The Climate, the soil and the situation of these Islands, show that they are more adapted for grazing, than for the growth of Corn; wheat has succeeded, it is true, but would it succeed so as to compete with the produce of other Countries.
- 6<sup>th</sup> Cattle, Sheep, Horses, Pigs, goats and poultry should be the principal objects of care in these Islands.
- 7<sup>th</sup> Vegetables of the hardier sorts, should be industriously cultivated.
- 8<sup>th</sup> If trees were planted in sheltered places and in large numbers, as is practised in England, it appears impossible, that they should not succeed. Terra del Fuoco and Staten Island, with much less soil and exposed to similar winds, are covered with wood.
- 9<sup>th</sup> Turf and Peat are so good and plentiful, that large Enclosures can speedily be made for confining cattle, or for grazing shelter to plants by raising mounds similar to those in Devonshire, perhaps such mounds would not be necessary in the Fathland Islands. There are stone walls in Gloucester shire and in other parts of England.
- 10<sup>th</sup> Flax might become a staple commodity and supply the western world.
- 11<sup>th</sup> Hemp should be tried as there are many valleys, these would even sides sheltered from the strongest winds and exposed to the Sun might repay the labour cultivation better than is supposed.
- 12<sup>th</sup> Butter & Cheese might be material articles of export.
- 13<sup>th</sup> The size and fatness of the wild cattle and the great weight of their Hides, shew how well they thrive - of twenty wild hinds, which were killed in our excursions into the interior of the East Fathlands, the average weight of the hides was 80 lb.
- 14<sup>th</sup> The climate is well adapted for the salting of fish as well as meat, and the fishery is so productive, that settlers may not only supply themselves and all visitors, but they may expect to the Brazil



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and West Coast of America, along the Coast of Patagonia, a species of Wood of a good quality is abundant. Whales from the Falklands might than be profitable - Whales that are not so abundant, as they were a few years ago, but there are enough about the Islands to deserve attention. Flax or Yucca might be procured from the Indians of Patagonia a well disposed and intelligent race, compared with the other savages. I can hardly give stronger proofs of their unsuspecting integrity, than by stating that several Europeans have remained with them by choice, and that the principal person of their tribe is a Woman well known by the name of Maria of Magellan went with M. Davis from the Northside of the Straits of Magellan to the Falkland Islands and after a visit of several weeks, returned to Patagonia, she gave M. Boushane some horses and helped her a Bull and Cow; she is very old but still active and apparently the Chief of her tribe, so migratory are these Cox-Gigants that the old Lady Maria was with her tribe in November 1831 at the Cape in September 1832 and again at the Straits of Magellan in March 1833.

This visit took place in 1830

- 17 Lime might be obtained from Patagonia, where the Coasts are full of fossil shells of a great size; at Port St. Julian there are beds of fossil oyster shells, which could be removed easier than limestone and yield nearly as much lime.
- 18 Large quantity of Soda might be obtained from the hills of Isla soled, which is so abundant.
- 19 Vapors from these Islands, might supply the River Plate, Bahia Blanca and the River Negro with wood from Valentia or from Terra del Fuego, where any quantity of a small size may be obtained close to the water for the trouble of cutting. Trees of forty or fifty feet in height and two or three feet in diameter may be found in Nassau Bay or Port Darwin.
20. From foreign Indian visitors, the settlers upon these enjoy a security unknown to those who have endeavored to establish themselves upon the Continent, south of the River Plate.
- 21 There are good Sandstones for masonry and abundance of shells for Lime.
22. The clay appears to be a quality fit for bricks, as well as for Earthenware.
- 23 With respect to commercial intercourse and quick communication with all parts of the world, the Falkland Islands are advantageously situated, upon the highway of nations and only required to be generally known, to be much frequented.

Signed St. Fitzroy  
Commander.

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Report of the State of the Falkland Islands

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by Commander Fitzroy R. N. Sloop "Beagle."

31<sup>st</sup> March 1833.

31 Mayo 1833



In the entire appearance of the Falkland Island there is nothing by which a stranger would be much interested from any point of view. Low hills sloping towards a low and rugged coast without a tree almost without a bush are the only objects on which the eye can rest.

2 These hills rise from 100 to 1000 feet above the sea the highest which may be called a mountain does not exceed 1500 feet.

3 Around the Islands and especially towards the S. & S.W. extremes there are numerous Islets and Rocks more or less dangerous to shipping according to their size or distance from the shores.

4 Near the land there are strong tides causing in some places waves and puffing dangerous to boats, and dangerous to small vessels. The tide at Flood comes from the southward towards the Head of Solanda, afterwards varying in direction as it winds through the various openings in the land, at the West the tide is stronger than at the Eastern extremity, and it sets to the S.W. more strongly than in the opposite direction at the full and change of the Moon it is high water at five, the tide rises 6 fathoms.

5 The winds are variable, very violent and seldom at rest during the summer a still day is a phenomenon, the nights generally speaking are less boisterous than the days, but neither by day or night now nor at any season of the year are these Islands exempt from violent squalls, and heavy gales which for a few hours blow with much fury that they may be called the Southern, Southern, Gales of wind and puffing squalls are more sudden and more furious from the Southern quarter between S. & S.W. and S. N. than from any other direction, to wind from the East is rare and still more rarely strong, S. & S.W. winds being gloomy overcast weather with much rain. S. & S.W. winds also bring clouds and rain. During summer the winds are generally from the S. W. and during the winter from the N. W. quarter. Fog is not of frequent occurrence and seldom last through the day, they sometimes accompany easterly wind and settled weather, neither thunder, or lightning are at all common, In the winter there is generally speaking not so much wind as in the summer in the former season though colder the weather is milder and more settled.

6 The Barometer or Symplicometer gives explanation of any or a great change in the weather, it should always be consulted. Mr. William Lowe both knowing

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and well known in these regions said to me "The Barometer was invaluable some dislike it hereabouts because it is always foretelling bad weather; but how often do we have any other Fair's symptoms, is equally useful far cheaper and far more probable."

Seasons vary considerably the weather may frequently be found better than it is here described, (l)pt as this account is the result of enquiry made in all quarters I do not think their average character will be found very different. January, February, and March are the most winds though warmest months here. June and July though cold are less stormy but those who have gained the most experience assure me that no observations can be placed on periodical changes, and that they themselves can only suppose that if a month

is fine in one year the next it will be probably better or worse. If the climate was less cold and less windy it might be considered that which is termed a "Island Climate," it is neither, neither is it extremely cold but the average temperature is low, and being accompanied with high winds and frequent showers, the cold is more noticed than during dry and better weather. During the last twenty years Fahrenheit thermometer has once been at 23° at noon and once at 80° in the shade, it has seldom been below 30° in the winter or above 70° in the summer, the average height is nearly 45°. Ice has not been known to exceed six feet in thickness, snow seldom lies upon the ground on low lands or seldom exceeds one or two inches in depth. Rain does not continue falling any considerable time and owing to the strong wind the evaporation is great - the climate is exceedingly healthy, I can hear of no diseases contracted on the Islands and none more serious than temporary colds.

Harbours easy of access and affording good shelter with the very best holding ground about amongst the Islands and affords protection from the numerous gales.

The Western Island was surveyed many years ago by Lieut. Roger Tuck and his chart bears a high character amongst those who have used it on the spot; some exceptions are made the Jason Islands at the N. by and a Reef near them on which a French Brig struck, and a small portion of the South side are said to be incorrectly laid down of the East Falkland only Berkeley Sound has been carefully examined but the position of the two Eastern and most material points are well ascertained and their places appear to be within a trifle the same as those assigned to them in the charts copied from Spanish Originals, the plan of Berkeley Sound which accompanies this paper will guide a ship to the anchorage which suits her best when she is within its limits. The Columbus Rocks run out under water and should have a berth of two miles until the exact extent of the Reef is ascertained I should prefer making the Islands from the Northwards rather to the Westward of the Eastern extreme so as to insure being to windward. If coming from the eastwards I should not approach the south east shore south of Cap. Penelope for it



is now dangerous and as yet unexplored a stranger should be  
cautious about the shoals and when at anchor should secure  
his ship well. In approaching the Land and particularly  
when entering a harbor or good look out should be kept for  
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water and reaching the surface points out like a buoy the  
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that are not more than five fathoms under water, large masses  
of drift kelp are frequently seen on the surface of the water.  
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The tracks of three large Pepls two American sailors and  
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such squalls as have visited ships should do her  
harmless - In Berkeley Sound the anchorage which best  
unites safety with ease of access, communication with  
the settlement and convenient waterway is in Johnsons  
Harbour well up towards North West Creek from the head  
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- slate; Sandstone in which beautiful impressions of shells  
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the peat is surprising and it may be questioned whether the  
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15 The settlement made by Farnot is upon the spot formerly  
occupied by the Spaniards, and is now known by the name  
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and several huts scattered over half a mile of rising  
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about 20 persons belonging to the settlement, under the  
directions of Mr. Matthew Bresson an intelligent ex-  
-perienced and very deserving person who has struggled  
against fortune for some years as Master of sealing  
Vessels and is now engaged in Mr. Kernefs affairs at  
the Falkland Islands.

16 There are at the settlement about 300 tame cattle and 40  
Horses, Butter and Cheese have been made of an excellent  
quality

17 Good fresh water is abundant.

18 Fuel at present sufficiently plentiful even for shipping  
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shore

19 There are several spars at Port Louis fit for the mast and  
yards of a merchants Vessel or small men of War

20 While the Spaniards were residing on these Islands,  
Horses, Horned Cattle, hogs and Rabbits were turned into  
the Country. The Cattle and Horses have surprisingly  
increased. Hogs also have multiplied but not so much.  
<sup>thousands</sup> ~~thousands~~ head of cattle and five thousand horses now wander  
at large about the East Falklands, the cattle are very  
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21 On the Island there are foxes or rather wolves, differing  
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Argoy  
Macdonald

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- quadrupeds
- 22 Rabbits have increased as they would in a warren
- 23 During summer fish swim in the crabs and a very delicate fish resembling a trout may be found in the fresh water brooks the most numerous sea fish is a species of haddock about two feet in length and six inches in depth; it takes oysters well and is reported hence to the River Plate, and Rio de Janeiro
- 24 Geese of three kinds, snipe and many species of ducks are extremely numerous, and very tame
- 25
- 26 There is a small bush called the tea plant which near as Bolivia gives as good a flavour, and fragrance to the water that I have seen it drunk as China Tea, without its taste being detected as different or disagreeable a small berry of a very pleasant taste grows on it and when ripe is fit to be gathered and eaten as fruit
- 27 Since the destruction of the three remaining colonies of the forest and that of the industrious settlers, by Captain Denison of the United States Corvette Pennington no progress has been made in the cultivation of the ground, the gardens are over-run with weeds and the poor colonists are alarmed at the visit of strangers
- 28 Though the British Flag now waves over their heads the Gaucho who are the more numerous of the little colony are too ignorant to be aware of its magic influence
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Part 2<sup>nd</sup>

- 1. An extremely large number of ships annually pass near the Falklands in going to the Pacific as well as in entering the Atlantic, the position of few places is better known than their Eastern extreme, and most vessels in passing - sing make the land in order to verify their Longitude
- 2. Local circumstances such as the relative position of the land, the set of the tides or currents or prevailing winds contribute to make St. Vincent's far easier of access safer to approach than either Cape St. John Station Island or Cape Horn
- 3. Were a hospitable reception easy or rather, no port dues and a supply of fresh provisions certain to attend the entrance of a ship into Berkeley Sound

As far the greatest number of ships would enter. —  
They would pass on because they neither know what is  
to be found nor with whom they are to deal vague  
and contradictory statements have been circulated  
and without certain knowledge surely few would  
delay their voyage

How many vessels now put in, who and how pay  
high charges, many for water and fresh provisions  
which might be obtained without going out of their  
way at a small expence in Berkeley Sound

The climate, the soil, and the situation of these  
Islands show that they are more adapted for  
grazing than for the growth of corn, wheat has suc-  
ceeded it is true, but would it succeed so as to  
compete with the produce of other countries.

Cattle, Sheep, Horses, Pigs, Goats, and Poultry should  
be the principal objects of care in these Islands  
Vegetables of the hardier sorts should be industriously  
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If trees were planted in sheltered places and in large  
numbers as is practised in England it appears im-  
possible that they should not succeed — Terra-  
dal Fuego and Staten Island with much less soil  
and exposed to similar winds are covered with wood

Iron and Lead are so good and plentiful that large  
enclosures can speedily be made for confining cattle or  
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to those in Devonshire perhaps such mounds would  
not be more required in the Falkland Islands than  
are stone walls in Gloucester — Here and in other parts  
of England

Wool might become a staple commodity and supply  
the western world

Wool should be tried as there are many vallies their  
southern sides sheltered from the strongest winds and  
exposed to the sun might repay the lab or cultivation  
better than is supposed

Butter and Cheese might be material articles of export

The size and fatness of the wild cattle and the great  
weight of their hides show how well they thrive — A  
tenderly wild bulls which were killed in our excursions  
into the interior of the East Falklands the average  
weight of the hides was 80 lbs

The climate is well adapted for the salting of fish, as  
well as meat, and the fishery is so productive that  
settlers may not only supply themselves and adjacent  
but they may export to the Brazil and West Coast  
of America along the Coast of Patagonia — a species  
of cod of a good quality is abundant. Vepels from the  
Falklands might then be profitable — H. Lale and Seal  
are not so abundant as they were a few years ago, but  
there are enough about the Island to deserve attention  
Horses, and Quachos might be procured from the  
Indians of Patagonia or well disposed and intelligent

12  
D



- race compared with the other savages - I can hardly give stronger proofs of their unsuspecting integrity than by stating that several Europeans have dealings with them by choice and that the principal person of their tribe is a woman well known by the name of Maria of Magellan weel with Mr. B. and one from the north side of the straits of Magellan to the Falkland Islands and after a visit of several weeks returned to Patagonia she gave Mr. B. rest and some horses and he left her a Bull and Cow; she is very old, but still active and apparently the chief of her Tribe, so migratory are these Ex-Giants that the old Lady Maria was with her tribe in November 1831 at Rio Negro in September 1832 and again at the straits of Magellan in March 1833

h. 17 Lime might be obtained from Patagonia where the Cliffs are full of fossil shells of a great size, at Port St. Julian there are beds of fossil oyster shells which which could be removed easier than limestone and yield nearly as much lime

h. 18 Large quantities of Soda might be obtained from the kelp or seaweed which is so abundant

h. 19 Pepp' from these Islands might supply the River Plate, Bahia, Blanca, and the Rio Negro with wood from Staten Island or from Terra-del-Fuego where any quantity of a small size may be obtained close to the water for the trouble of cutting - Trees of forty or fifty feet in height and two or three feet in diameter may be procured in St. Paul Bay or Port Famine

h. 20 Few from inhuman invaders the settlers upon these enjoy a security unknown to those who have endeavored to establish themselves upon the contiguous south of the River Plate

h. 21 There are good sand stone for masonry and abundance of shells for lime

h. 22 The clay appears to be a quality fit for bricks as well as for Earthenware

h. 23 With respect to commercial intercourse and quick communication with all parts of the world the Falkland Islands are advantageously situated upon the highway of nations and only require to be generally known to be much frequented.

"Signed"

W. Fitzroy

Commander

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Taylor & Francis  
Printing in the state  
of the Middleland  
dated 27<sup>th</sup> March 1833.