

The Voyage of the Beagle Chapter Eleven

Strait of Magellan—Port Famine—Ascent of Mount Tarn—Forests—
Edible Fungus—Zoology—Great Seaweed—Tierra del Fuego—
Climate—Fruit-trees and productions of the southern coasts—Height
of snow-line on the Cordillera—Descent of glaciers to the sea—
Icebergs formed—Transportal of boulders—Climate and productions
of the Antarctic Islands—The Narrows of frozen carcasses—
Recapitulation

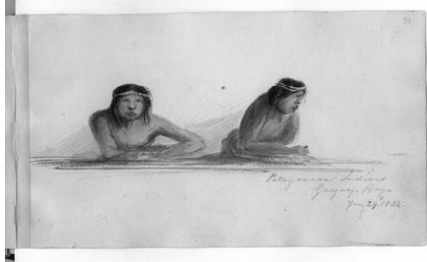
MAY 1834—10 JUNE 1834

Strait of Magellan

- May 1834, 2nd passing through eastern mouth
- Level plains like Patagonia
- Cape Negro: like Tierra del Fuego
- Port Famine: rounded mountains, impervious forests, rain-drenched
- Cape Gregory: dry, sterile plains

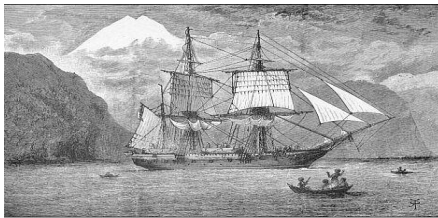


Patagonian Indians of Cape Gregory



- “Gigantic”—over six feet tall
- Guanaco mantles over long hair
- Faces painted with black, red, and white
- “behaved quite like gentlemen”
- Most can speak some English and Spanish
- Loved sugar
- Increase in horse populations made them change from foot-Indians to horse-Indians

Winter in Port Famine: 1 June 1834



H.M.S. Beagle in Straits of Magellan. Mt. Sarmiento in the distance.



- Views of Mt. Sarmiento
- Runaway sailors
- Fuegian Indian encounters
 - Angry and malicious
 - Ate globular, yellow fungus growing on beech trees
 - Called *Cyttaria darwinii*
 - Discussion of parasitic fungi:
 - “How singular is this relationship between parasitical fungi and the trees on which they grow, in distant parts of the world!”
- Mt. Tarn in February:
 - Thick evergreen forests near high-water mark, deep ravines with no vegetation, cloudy and cold

Zoology and Geology of Tierra del Fuego



- Mammalia: whales, seals, one bat, one “kind of mouse”, two mice, one ctenomys (tucutuco), two foxes, one sea-otter, guanaco, one deer
- Birds: white-tufted flycatcher, black woodpecker, dusky-colored wren, creeper, finches, thrushes, starlings, hawks, owls
- No reptiles
- Insects: beetles in small numbers among alpine forests and water, some flies, butterflies, bees
- Geology: cliffs of sandstone, mud, and shingle
- Sea kelp, *Macrocystis pyrifera*:
- “If we turn from land to sea, we shall find the latter as abundantly stocked with living creatures as the former is poorly so.”

Magdalen Channel: 8 June 1834

- “jagged points, cones of snow, blue glaciers, strong outlines, marked on a lurid sky”
- Anchored at Cape Turn near Mt. Sarmiento



Western Coast of South America: 10 June 1834

- Low, rounded, barren hills made of granite and greenstone
- Scattered rocks in ocean swells
- East and West Furies



Climate and Productions of Southwest Coast of Chile

	Latitude Degrees	Summer Temp, F	Winter Temp, F	Mean of Summer and Winter, F
Tierra del Fuego	53 38 S	50	33.08	41.54
Falkland Islands	51 38 S	51		
Dublin	53 21 N	59.54	39.2	49.37

Latitude	Height of Snow-line, Feet	Observer
Equatorial Region	15748	Humboldt
Bolivia, 16-18 S	17000	Pentland
Central Chile, 33 S	14500-15000	Gillies and Darwin
Chiloe, 41-43 S	6000	Darwin and Officers
Tierra del Fuego, 54 S	3500-4000	King

- “The descent of glaciers to the sea must, I conceive, mainly depend...on the lowness of the line of perpetual snow on steep mountains near the coast.”
- “[icebergs] are associated with a great unstratified formation of mud and sand...which has originated in the repeated ploughing up of the sea-bottom by the stranding of icebergs, and by the matter transported on them.”
- “The connection between the transportal boulders and the presence of ice in some form, is strikingly shown by their geographical distribution over the earth.”

The Antarctic Islands

- Sandwich Land: “covered in many fathoms thick with everlasting snow” — Cook
- Georgia: moss, tufts of grass, wild burnet, one land bird
- South Shetland Islands: lichens, moss, some grass
- Vegetation needing not heat but protection from the cold



Preservation in Ice

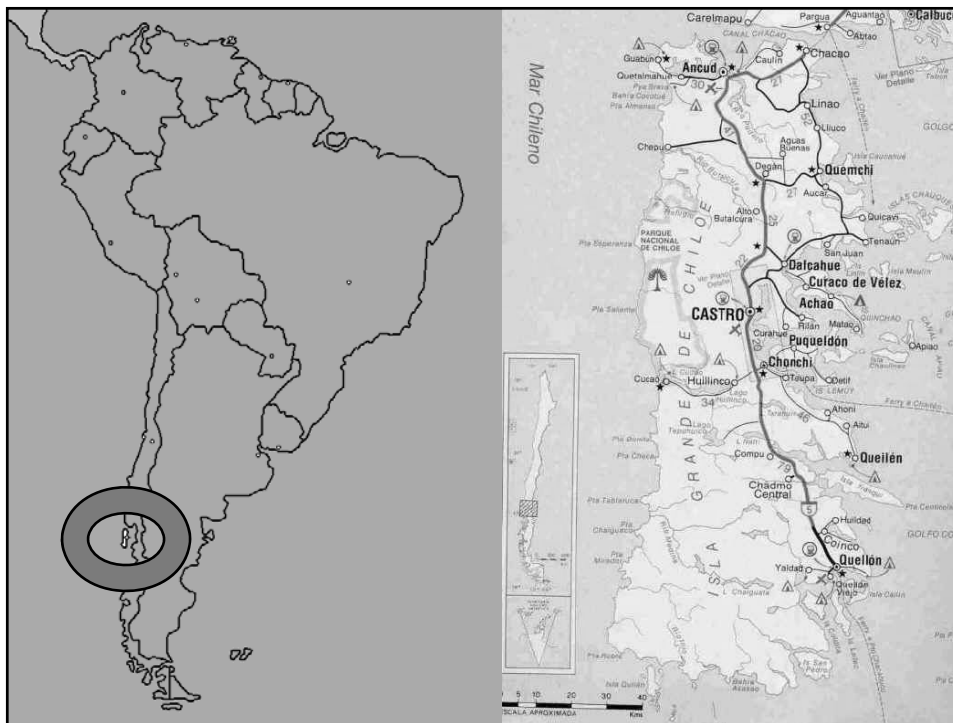


- Studies of mammals found preserved in freezing soils inspired Darwin to search for links between food sources in these areas and the animals that survive off of them.
- Sailor in South Shetland Islands
- Rhinoceros in Siberia

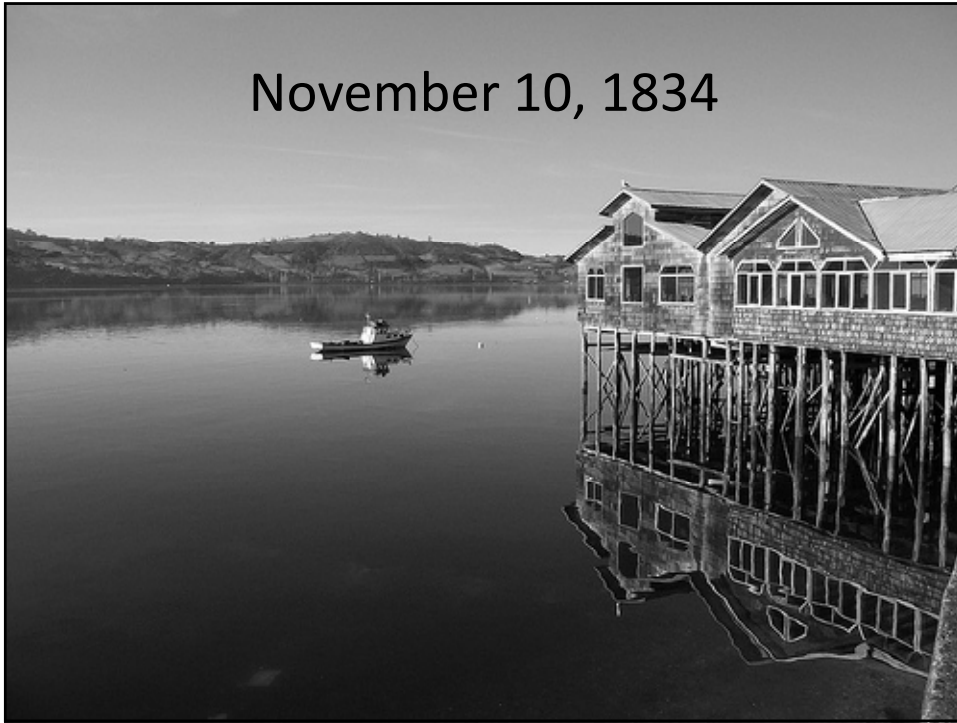
Chilling on the Beags with D'win

Chiloe and Chonos Islands

Chapter 13



November 10, 1834



Chiloe, cntd.

- Southern part of Chile, island of Chiloe
- 90 miles long
- Wicked beautiful forests (evergreens and all)
- Climate is no good (“detestable”)
 - Wind, rain, cloudy

Chiloe! Dense Forest!



Chilling in Chiloe-town

- Staple foods: pigs, potatoes, fish
- Almost no agriculture, just dense forest
- Wicked poor peeps

Bartering? What's that?

- No currency for trading your stuff(!)
 - Bartering to the max
 - Planks for wine
 - Charcoal for trifle? Would you do this?



||:|



November 24, 1834

- Whale boat of Capt. Sullivan
- Meeting the Beags at the southern tip of Chiloe
- Horse ride to Chacao
- Roads made of logs
 - Too wet for no logs!
 - No sunlight hitting the ground to dry up stuff

November 25th/26th (It's Raining! Then It's Sunny!)

- After rainstorms, see Orsono volcano
- “perfect cone and white with snow”
- Seeing curvature of the earth? D’win observes things from far away (246)
- Other volcanoes: ““El Famoso Corcovado””
 - Corcovado
 - ~7,000 feet high
 - Steaming a bit, doing what volcanoes do, you know...

Orsono! (Perfect Cone, Remember?)



This is Not the Corcovado D'win is
Talking About...(this is in Rio)



White Man's Burden Much? Oh D'win...

- "It is a pleasant thing to see the aborigines advanced to the same degree of civilization, however low that may be, which their white conquerors have attained."
- Census of 1832 reveals that there are lots of "mixed bloods," not many "pure breeds" left
- "strange superstitious ceremonies" but Christian
- D'win thinks they're dirt po', too. I guess that's not racist...

Do some Agriculture, Man

- “The people here complained of want of land.”
 - Gvt. Restriction
 - Stuff doesn’t light on fire (too wet)
- You can buy land through some sort of triple auction process (\$350 for ~8.5 square miles of forest)
 - ~\$7,200 in 2009\$
 - (inflation calculator in the house!)

Banks, We Need Them

- D’win observes that people put their cash in “some secret corner” (ie under the bed status)
- “...every family [has] a jar or treasure-chest buried in the ground.”
- D’win, being a Capitalist bro...this is a little surprising, don’t you think?

November 30th, 1834

- Can't buy sugar or an ordinary knife!? Oh no!
- "Old man" has to guess the church bell time...they need to give Greenwich a phone call
- No rain shelters!?
- When wet, a "young Indian, who was wet to the skin" responds to the D'win: "Muy bien, señor."
 - Maybe they like the rain? Impervious to head colds? Only his later work in the *Origin of Species* delves into this...

December 1st and Chilling at Lemuy Island

- "pure Indian inhabitants"
- "their eagerness for tobacco was something quite extraordinary"
- VALUE PYRAMID (TAKE COPIOUS NOTES BEFORE YOUR TRAVELS TO LEMUY):
 - 1st: tobacco
 - 2nd: indigo
 - 3rd: capsicum
 - 4th: old clothes (mmmm...new doesn't make the list?)
 - 5th: gunpowder (for saint or feast days, of course!)

Lemuy Value Pyramid(!) in Pictures [HIGHLIGHTS]

- #3: Capsicum



- #4: Old Clothes(!)



Lemuy, the Place Where You've Never Been (Pure Breeds there, remember)

- Eat shell-fish and potatoes
- Sometimes rock with fowls, sheep, goats, pigs, horses, cattle (again, in order of popularity)
- Vegans/vegetarians, apparently shit out of luck
- Stop feeding the habit, D'win!: "...they were in sad want of tobacco and other comforts."

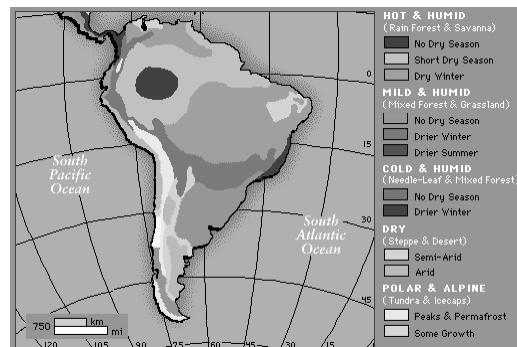
Keep on Keeping on...South

- We're at Caylen
o "el fin
del Cristinandad"
- Panke plants
(*Gunnera scabra*)
 - Like big 'effing rhubarb
 - Eat the stalks
 - Eight feet
diameter leaves (!),
friggin' big
 - Tan leather with roots,
wicked black dye



December 6th

- Latitude 43° 10', ie wicked south, still Caylen
- "Christians were very poor, and, under the plea of their situation, begged for some tobacco."
- Beagle's back!
Anchored at the
island of San Pedro



Animals(!), CUTE

- *Canis fulvipes*, ie the D'win fox
 - Wicked rare
 - “I was able, by quietly walking up behind, to knock him on the head with my geological hammer” (nice D'win)
 - The fox “is now mounted in the museum of the Zoological Society.”

D'win Hit you on the Head with his
proverbial geological hammer



San Pedro and its “Micaceous Slate”

- Mica, remember?
- Walked on “a mass of dying and dead trunks” (trees, y’all)
- “never touched the ground, and we were frequently ten or fifteen feet above it”
- Don’t forget your bio vocab: DETRITIS

Finally...Chonos Archipelago

- D’win, taking inspiration from Samuel Taylor Coleridge and other opium-inspired poets of the time:
 - “White massive clouds were piled up against a dark blue sky, and across them black ragged sheets of vapour were rapidly driven. The successive mountain ranges appeared like dim shadows; and the setting sun cast on the woodland a yellow gleam, much like that produced by the flame of spirits of wine. The water was white with the flying spray, and the wind lulled and roared again through the rigging: it was an ominous, sublime scene.”
 - He later sees a whole circle (not to be confused with a semi-circle) rainbow...creepy

December 18th, SUMMITSSS

- Northward towards Cape Tres Montes (imagine a view, no googs images this time...)
- “succeeded in reaching the summit of this hill”
- “In these wild countries it gives much delight to gain the summit of any mountain...an indefinite expectation of seeing something very strange...joined to it some vanity, that you perhaps are the first man who ever stood on this pinnacle or admired this view.”
 - Very introspective, D’win. Hopefully he considers the “pure breeds” real people...they’ve probably already been there.

Misc. Late December/Happy New Year, D’Win...Party like it’s 1835.

- See lots of seals chilling, but very judgmental of them:
 - “...even pigs would have been ashamed of their dirt, and of the foul smell which came from them.”
 - Notices other fauna near seal pile
 - Turkey-buzzard
 - Fish
 - Gulls
- Found some sailors lost for fifteen months?
 - Unclear if D’win leaves them there? Sucks for them...

D'win, Hitting Seals with his Geological Hammer



PLANTS(!) in Tierra del Fuego

- Sweet berries, Myrtus (*M. nummularia*)



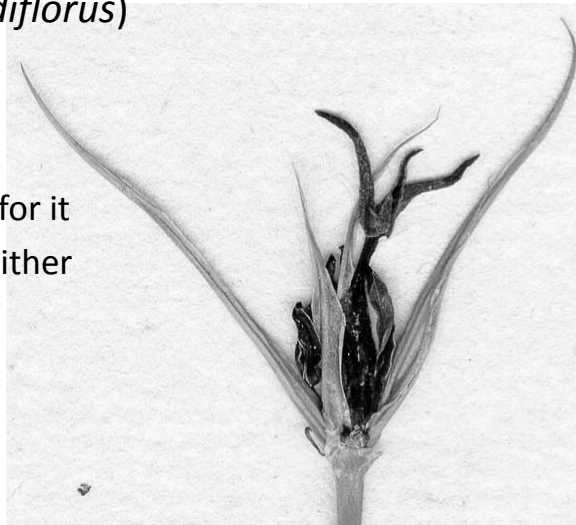
PLANTS(!)

- Health, Empetrum (*E. rubrum*)



RUSH

- Rush (*Juncus grandiflorus*)
 - All pretty close to English relatives
 - Lots of peat(!), climate conducive for it
 - No burning here, either



Beavs and Otters...Mice, too

- Myopotamus Coypus (beaver with a round tail)



Still CUTE

- Capybara, posing just for you. This is his personal photographer...



Oh Man, is that a Cute Mouse or What?

- Mouse,
(*M. brachiotis*)



Birds are for Birdwatchers

- *Opetiorhynchus Patagonicus* (NO PICS)
- *Oxyurus* (NO PICS)
- *Myiobius* >>
 - They catch insects



Scytalopus



Mauricio Ló

Cheucau (Pterotochos rubecula)

- Sounds like a little dog yelping? Cool.



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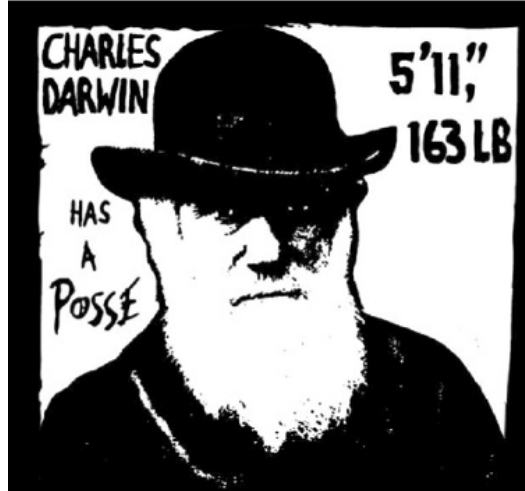
WTF is a Petrel, Anyway? Sea Birds...apparently

- Pelacanooides Berardi
- Procellaria gigantea

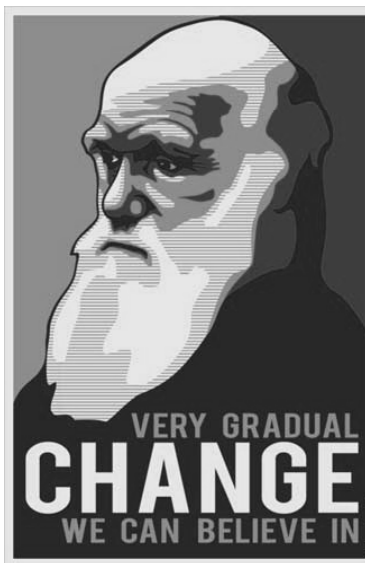
- Like an albatross
- They frickin' dive underwater(!)
- D'win observes... wishes he could hit them with hammer...



Don't Mess with the D'Win...He's a
Prizefighter (and is looking for a legit
Shep Fairey homage...none yet)



Is This Better?



References(!)

- ...available upon request
- No aboutdarwin.com...I swear.
- Maybe Wikipedia
- OHHH...google.com...lots.
- Fake Shepard Fairey.