

summer, or from March to November. On both the east and west coasts of New Holland, as well as on that of New Zealand, they are abundant from September to March, in the bays, where they resort to calve. This, however, they no longer do without molestation, as the shores are now occupied by extensive establishments for taking them, well provided with boats. On the signal from the look-out, the boats are launched, and soon in hot pursuit of the game, which, when killed, is towed into the bay and dragged on shore, where it is cut up and "tryed out."

There are few places which surpass these localities for the commission of all kinds of vice; and in saying this, I have reference as well to those of South and West Australia, as to those of New Zealand, although the latter are the most noted for their enormities. Some merchants, it is said, in Sydney, advance the capital, and share the profits with those who undertake the business. The latter generally engage in their service a large number of natives and some of the lowest whites, whom they allow to indulge in every sort of vice, so long as they can make use of them. Quarrels often take place between the parties engaged in the same business, and the rivalry not unfrequently leads to sharp conflicts and bloodshed.

I am surprised that the British authorities have not taken cognizance of the outrageous acts that are constantly taking place within the limits where they claim authority. One of these acts was made known to me after my arrival at the Bay of Islands, and I regretted the impossibility of repairing to the spot to demand redress. The following is the statement of the master, officers, and crew.

"While the whale-ship *Adeline*, Thomas Brown, master, was lying at Kapiti, New Zealand, on the 12th of December, 1839, for the purpose of refitting with wood and water, at about 2 P. M., as the third officer and five of the crew were employed in towing off a raft of water; being about one mile from the ship, they were boarded by a whale-boat, having a crew of eight Europeans and one New Zealander, under one James Harrison as headsman, armed with pistols and knives, (being a part of the persons employed by Raymond and Young,) who forcibly took possession of the boat and cut off the raft, threatening instant death to any one who should make resistance. Having thus captured the boat, they at once made sail, and ran for their establishment, on the shore, about six miles distant. The captain, on perceiving the piratical act, at once followed with two boats, but did not succeed in overtaking them until they reached the shore and had hauled the captured boat up on the beach. While on his way he was pursued by another boat, which kept firing at him. The captured boat was