

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 surrounded on the beach by from thirty to forty desperate-looking wretches, more or less armed. Of these, Harrison became the spokesman, declaring that they had taken the boat and meant to keep it, at the risk of his and all the party's lives, to which speech they all signified their assent. Captain Brown repeatedly cautioned them against such acts of piracy; but his caution was received with curses and all kinds of abuse, and finally a pistol was presented, with the declaration that he, Harrison, would blow out the brains of Captain Brown if he attempted to rescue the boat."

Such has been the indiscriminate manner in which the whales have been slaughtered, both old and young, that these haunts have of late years been less frequented by them.

The right whale is found of much larger size in high latitudes than in low, and not unfrequently yields, when taken in these latitudes, as much as one hundred and eighty barrels of oil. Besides the oil, the whalebone produces some profit. A large number of these whales were seen by us in the bays about Cape Horn, in the months of March and April; but the weather there is seldom favourable to the use of boats, and would of course preclude success in carrying on such a business.

On soundings, and in shoal water, attempts have been made to capture a different species of whale, called the humpback (*Gibbosa*); but there is a great impediment to the securing of the spoils of this game, for when killed they immediately sink for thirty or forty hours. It therefore becomes necessary, either to anchor a boat near by to