

neighbouring rocks, multitudes of sea birds congregate; and at the proper season a boat or two proceed thither, and fetch home three or four thousand eggs at a time, twice or thrice a week, for several weeks in succession. These eggs have a slightly fishy taste; otherwise they are as good and nutritious as those of the domestic hen. Yet, with all these auxiliaries, we sadly feel the want of a port near home where we might find a market for our butter and vegetables. They do not require them in Sydney or New Zealand at least not sufficiently to induce their sending for them, and here we have no harbour for keeping a sea-going vessel, however small, so that we are continually enduring privations in the midst of plenty. Tea, sugar, flour, and a host of other necessities, are generally beyond our reach; but the greatest crook in the lot is the general want of decent clothes. At the present time the community is not in such untoward straits, as our recent whaling-season was extraordinarily successful, four hundred barrels of oil having been taken without personal accident, though at imminent hazard. Two boats were smashed so completely by the fury of these leviathans of the deep, that not a fragment of them was saved; while the crews were helplessly exposed to the rage not only of the wounded monsters, but of several others which comprised the shoal, as well as of hundreds of ravenous sharks. Fortunately, other boats were at hand, and at the imminent risk of their lives the brave fellows pulled into the midst of the awful *mêlée*, and rescued their uncles, brothers, sons, or fathers, as the case might be. All this took place in the plain view of mothers, wives, and children. Picture to yourself what a scene was being enacted on the heights, where myself and the female portion of the community generally were assembled to witness the combat; what loud and piercing cries, what earnest prayers to their covenant God for aid in this their time of tribulation; and how fervent their grateful thanksgiving when all those who had been in dangers so varied were mercifully preserved. The whales were ultimately captured; and when the boats returned to the shore, what thankful ejaculations were poured forth! what embracing of mothers and sons, husbands and wives! and also, for I may not conceal the fact, of certain comely young men and comelier maidens, the latter of whom hardly knew whether to laugh or cry; but I am of opinion that some of them did both.

The desire of our young friend to know whether the European cast of features prevails may be answered in the affirmative; but, at the same time let it be borne in mind that the Tahitians are a well favored people, especially the woman. As to ourselves our progeny are much diversified in complexion, though not generally in feature; our manners, customs, mode of living, and prevalent tone of opinion are so thoroughly English, that the evidences of British origin deepen instead of becoming less marked, and so will continue to do, unless people of other tongues and modes of faith unhappily settle among us, which may Heaven forbid! In respect of personal appearance, our men are athletic, bronzed and bearded, *obedient husbands* and exemplary parents. Among the females there is not a beautiful woman, though most are very pretty, and all have pleasant and loveable countenances. In bodily form they are somewhat inclined to be large, carrying their age remarkably well for so warm a climate and such well-peopled nurseries. The most remarkable thing is the great variety of complexion among children of the same family in all the different generations, now amounting to four. Such diversity exists, I think, among no other people. Children of the same parents, though possessing unmistakable identity of countenance, are widely separated as to colour. One brother or sister may be as purely white as an Anglo-Saxon girl; with auburn locks; the next in age is probably but a few shades lighter than a Bengalee or American-Indian, with the luxuriant black hair of either; nay, even in the case of twins there is the same physical difference. My wife's sister the mother of no less than twenty children, has two daughters (twins) of the age of twelve years: the one is as fair as an English-born child, with slightly freckled countenance and light hair; the other is as dark as a Spanish damsel, with profuse locks of ebony hue. But what is still more singular, Mary is in features and shape almost Tahitian, while Rosa, the Indian in hue, has Grecian features, a statuesque form, and, if she lives to womanhood, will, I think, be more nearly beautiful than any of her companions. As regards the inner man, blessed be God "we are, though weak" still pursuing "the even tenor of our way." Pulmonary consumption is pre-