

coal-oil, and the devastations of the *Alabama* and *Shenandoah*, which almost swept American shipping off the sea, paralyzed the trade, but there are now over a hundred whalers which sail from this port. As whalebone is one of the important products, and there must be a demand for this until ladies conclude that nature has provided them with sufficient bones of their own, the business will probably be good for an indefinite time yet to come. Several of the whalers now are staunch steamers, made exceedingly strong to resist the nipping of the ice. The blubber is "tried out" in huge boilers, set in brickwork on the deck, and



SOUTHERN CLIFFS, BLOCK ISLAND.

the refuse serves as fuel. On the wharves the reek and smears of oil are everywhere. Hundreds of barrels were stored and covered thick with sea-weed.

Probably no occupation but war has been attended with so many perils as whaling. An old salt on the wharf regaled me, while we watched a whaleship just returned "breaking out" cargo, with accounts of the stirring adventures of the four or five years' cruise, and explained the mode and use of the harpoons, lances, and knives, used in this war of the pigmies and Titans. A stroke of the sea-monster's tail will shiver to pieces the strongest boat; and as the harpooned whale darts off, the arm or leg that is caught in the flying line is crushed or torn off in a