

to think that it would support any conclusions differing from those toward which the evidence now collected tends, I think it as well to communicate what I have.

All early writers on New Zealand, Tasmania (Van Diemen's Land) and the southern part of Australia agree in describing the fur-seal as very plentiful in these regions.

Captain Cook (1770), after circumnavigating the North Island of New Zealand, passed down the east coast of the South or Middle Island. When in latitude $46^{\circ} 31'$, off this coast, he remarks: "This day we saw some whales and seals, as we had done several times after having passed the strait" (Cook Strait); "but we saw no seal while we were upon the coast of Eahienomawe" (North Island). On his second voyage (1773) he visited the west coast of what subsequently became the Province of Otago. He refers to the seals here as follows: "A gentleman killed a seal, one of the many which were upon a rock." And next day writes: "We touched at the seal rock and killed three seals." And again, in the same vicinity: "Rowing out to the outermost isles, where we saw many seals, fourteen of which we killed and brought away with us; and might have got many more would the surf have permitted us to land with safety." A few days later he writes: "We could only land in one place, where we killed ten."

The great navigator and others who followed him killed seals only for food. This, too, had been the practice of the Maoris. Mention of seals is constantly found in traditions relating to the southern portion of the South Island (east coast). Mr. T. Sarata, a Maori member of Parliament, tells

believed, will be of general interest, as it relates to a chapter of history and exploration of which few records have seen the light.

It must be remembered, in reading Mr. Chapman's paper, that the pursuit of fur-seals in the Southern Hemisphere has been entirely confined to the killing of these animals on shore, at their breeding-stations. "Pelagic sealing," as now carried on in the North Pacific, has never been practised in the South; where vessels have been employed merely as the means of reaching the otherwise inaccessible resorts of the seals. Thus Mr. Chapman's observations, in so far as they bear on the question of the preservation of the fur-seal of the North Pacific, go to show the extreme importance of protecting the littoral breeding resorts of the animals from all disturbances —G. M. Dawson.