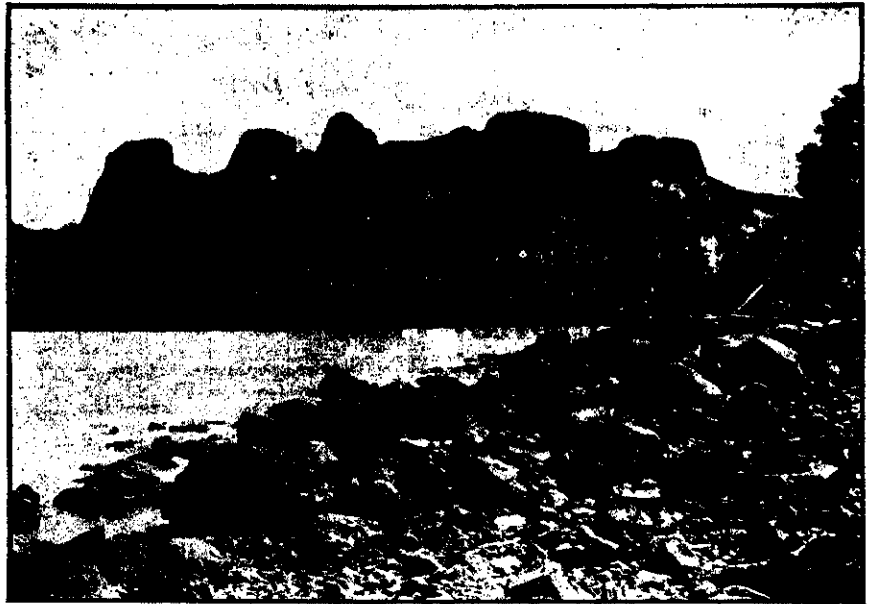


ing of Captain Thompson whether they would suit his purpose or not. The natives belonging to the ship then first threw off the mask, and in opprobrious terms upbraided Captain Thompson with their mistreatment, informing him at the same time that he should have no spars there but what he could procure himself. The captain appeared careless of the disappointment, and with his people turned towards the boats, at which instant they were assaulted with clubs and axes, which the assailants had till then concealed under their dresses, and although the boats' crews had several muskets, yet so impetuous was the attack that every man was prostrated before one could be used.

'Captain Thompson and his unfortunate men were all murdered on the spot, and their bodies were afterwards devoured by the murderers, who, clothing themselves with their apparel, launched the boats and proceeded towards the ship, which they determined also to attack. It being very dark before they reached her, and no suspicion being entertained of what had happened, the second officer hailed the boats, and was answered by the villains who had occasioned the disaster, that the captain having chosen to remain on shore that night for the purpose of viewing the country, had ordered them to take on board such spars as had already been procured, which account readily obtained belief, and the officer was knocked down and killed by those who first ascended the ship's side. All the seamen of the watch were in like manner surprised and murdered. Some of the assassins then went down to the cabin door and asked the passengers and others to go on deck to see the spars, and a female passenger obeying the summons, was killed on the cabin ladder. The noise occasioned by her fall alarmed the people that were in bed, who, running on deck in disorder, were all killed as they went up, except four or five who ran up the shrouds and remained in the rigging the rest of the night.

'The next morning Te Pahi appeared alongside in a canoe, and was much offended at what had happened, but was not permitted to interfere or to remain near the ship. The unfortunate men in the rigging called to him, and implored his protection, of which he assured them if they could make their way to his canoe. This they effected at every hazard, and were by the old chief landed on the nearest point, though closely pursued. The pursuit was continued on shore. They were all overtaken, and Te Pahi was forcibly held while the murder of the unhappy fugitives was perpetrated. A female passenger and two children, who were afterwards found in the cabin, were spared from massacre, and taken on shore to a hut, in which situation Mr Berry and Captain Pattison, of the ship City of Edinburgh, found them when they rescued them.

'Te Pahi was afterwards permitted by the people of Whangaroa to take three boatloads of any property he chose out of the ship, firearms and gunpowder excepted, and the



THE SEVEN CHURCHES, WHANGAROA.

first one boat bore up for the Bay of Islands and disappeared, and some time after the other.

'I struggled hard to reach Whangaroa that I might ascertain the fate of the Boyd, even if I could do nothing else, but was ultimately obliged also to bear up for the Bay of Islands. Reached the ship about midnight and found that the other two boats had arrived some hours before me. Next morning, when I came on deck, I found that the weather was fine, and therefore resolved to make a second attempt to

we reached Whangaroa, and we stopped all night inside the heads.'

In the printed report the writer says: 'We found the wreck in shoal water at the top of the harbour, a most melancholy picture of wanton mischief. The natives had cut her cables, and towed her up the harbour, till she had grounded, and then set her on fire and burned her to the water's edge. In her hold were seen the remains of her cargo—coals, salted seal skins, and planks. Her guns, iron standards, etc., were lying on the top, having fallen in when her decks were consumed.

'Metanganga landed by himself, but directed the boats to a more convenient landing place, where he quickly joined us with two of the principal chiefs and several of their friends who had been engaged in the massacre. Dressed in canvas, the spoil of the ship, they approached us with the greatest confidence, held out their hands, and addressed me by name in the style and manner of old acquaintances.

'I inquired if there were any survivors, to which they readily replied in the affirmative, mentioning their names with great familiarity, and even with an appearance of kindness and sympathy. They were then informed that we had come to Whangaroa for the purpose of delivering the captives. I then pointed to my men and their muskets on the one hand, and to the heap of axes on the other, bidding them take their choice, and either deliver the captives peaceably, when they should be paid for their ransom, or I would otherwise attack them. The chief, after a few moments' hesitation, replied with great quickness that trading was better than fighting. "Then give us axes and you shall have the prisoners." . . . On reaching the settlement we found a great crowd collected, of whom several of the females were decently dressed as Europeans. We were then told that the prisoners were up the country, that they would immediately send for them, and that they would be delivered up the next morning. . . . At the time

appointed the natives, agreeable to promise, brought to our quarters a young woman with her sucking child—Mrs Morley—and a boy belonging to the vessel about fifteen years of age. On inquiring of the female whether there were any other survivors, she mentioned the infant daughter of Mr Commissary Broughton, which was in the possession of the chief of the island at the entrance of the harbour. On reaching the island I sent ashore one of the followers who had received orders from the chief to demand the delivery of the child. A long conversation took place between him and his countrymen, and no child appearing for upwards of an hour I began to get greatly alarmed for its safety. This delay, I afterwards had reason to believe, proceeded from the endeavours of the natives to deliver it up in as decent a manner as possible. It was tolerably clean, with its hair dressed and ornamented with white feathers in the fashion of New Zealanders. Its only



WHANGAROA HARBOUR, SHOWING POSITION OF 'BOYD' WHEN SEIZED BY NATIVES.

bulk they divided among themselves. The salt provisions, flour, and spirits they threw overboard, considering them useless. The muskets they prized very much, and one of the savages in his eagerness to try one, stove in the head of a barrel of gunpowder, and filling the pan of the piece snapped it directly over the cask, the explosion of which killed five native women and eight or nine men, and set part of the ship on fire.'

Berry heard of the catastrophe in the Bay of Islands about the middle of December, but did not at first pay much attention to the rumour, and it was not until the month had nearly come to an end that he determined to ascertain the truth, having, as he writes, received such confirmation as to compel belief, the circumstances related being not only so consistent with one another, but of such a nature as evidently to exceed the powers of invention possessed by the natives. The City of Edinburgh had been in the Bay of Islands since the end of October, and Berry and the first mate arranged to proceed to Whangaroa in the last days of the year. A supplement to the printed account of the destruction of the Boyd, was forwarded to Sir George Grey, K.C.B., by Berry, shortly before his death in Sydney. Access to this manuscript was courteously permitted for the purposes of this history; it has since been placed among the Grey collection in the Auckland Free Library. In it Berry writes:—

'Before proceeding on the expedition to Whangaroa, I called all hands, and told them I would only take volunteers, and asked who were willing to accompany me. All hands volunteered, so that I was able to make a selection, and I exacted a promise from them that they would implicitly obey me. I left the captain and all the officers on board, and the remainder of the crew to take care of the ship during my absence.

'The natives had twice attacked the ship during my stay in New Zealand, and for that reason I left the ship in the dark. I had misgivings that I might find her a mass of ruins on my return. The wind was light during the night, but at daylight it began to blow in an opposite direction to our course, and soon increased to a gale. I was in the foremost boat; the two others were far behind at uncertain distances:

reach Whangaroa. None of the adventurers of the preceding day were yet on deck. The word was passed below, 'Who's for Whangaroa?' In an instant they all appeared on deck covered only with their blankets. I made a new selection and rejected all the men who were in the boat which first deserted me. This time I started immediately after breakfast. The wind was favourable, and I was now accompanied by my friend Metanganga. It was late before



UPPER PART OF WHANGAROA, SHOWING WHERE THE 'BOYD' DRIFFED AFTER TAKING FIRE.