

## *SAGACITY OF DOGS*

A remarkable instance of the attachment and sagacity of dogs occurred in the Hutt on the occasion of the murder of both Gillespie and Rush. Gillespie's dog was severely hurt by the murderers of his master, being cut by a tomahawk about the head in several places (supposed to be done in offering resistance to the Maoris) and the dog was believed to be dead. Some days after, however, he was discovered on the bank of the river where his master used to cross, howling and waiting for his return; nor could he by any inducement be made to quit the spot. Subsequently he was taken by one of the neighbours, and treated kindly, but he still retained his knowledge of his former owner. On the production of the cap which poor Gillespie used to wear, (not thinking about the dog) although it had been washed, and similar to others that were there, the dog jumped up, and snatched it away nor could it again be got from him. Poor Rush's dog was equally sagacious, and it is a great pity that it was found necessary to destroy its life. There are many instances of this dog's sagacity known to numbers here. On one occasion, when his master had taken some corn to the

mill to be ground, he unconsciously left the sacks. Missing his dog, two days after he came from the Hutt (a distance of nine miles), and discovered his dog carefully guarding them, nor would he allow any person to go near him. The dog, by himself, used frequently to go and drive the horse home. Many other tales are told of this dog's sagacity; but his faithfulness equalled his sagacity; for on the body of his master being found, he was seen caressing and licking his hand, and prevented any person from approaching him, by his growls and ferocious conduct. The poor faithful creature was of necessity shot, to see if anything could be done for his master. It is certain that such dogs as these are worth taking care of, and are worth a collar and chain; but it is equally certain, that the super-abundance of Maori curs, and dogs without owners, should be got rid of for the protection of those persons keeping stock, not to say a word about the cruelty of it. By suffering useless curs to roam at large, and destroy sheep and injure horses, the reputations of good dogs suffer and in all probability the pockets of their masters also.

*Taken from the Wellington Spectator, July 1846*