PART XIII.

THE FISHERIES OF SOUTH CAROLINA AND GEORGIA.

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ANALYSIS.

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PART XIII.

THE FISHERIES OF SOUTH CAROLINA AND GEORGIA.

A.—GENERAL REVIEW OF THE FISHERIES OF SOUTH CAROLINA AND GEORGIA.

179. DESCRIPTION OF THE MORE IMPORTANT FISHERY INTERESTS.

DESCRIPTION OF THE COAST.—The States of South Carolina and Georgia, with a coast-line of 250 miles, are bordered by a belt of rich grassy swamp-land separating the ocean from the higher ground of the interior. This belt, comprising the famous Sea Island region, extends almost without interruption along the entire coast of both States. It varies in breadth from 5 to 30 miles, and is broken up into an almost innumerable number of islands, separated from each other by a vast network of channels or tide-creeks varying from a few feet to a mile or more in width. These channels communicate freely with each other to form a continuous inland passage. In fact the tide-creeks are everywhere so numerous along this portion of the coast that a small boat can readily pass from the lower part of North Carolina to Florida without once venturing outside. Many of the channels are deep enough to be navigable by shoal-draught steamers for a considerable distance, but they are often too narrow and crooked to admit of the extensive use of sail vessels.

The general evenness of the shore is interrupted at short intervals by large bays and sounds. These vary greatly in size, some being simple indentations of the coast without any tributaries of importance; others are formed by the expansion of a single stream at the point where it empties into the sea, while still others receive the waters of several of the more important rivers of the State. The mouth of each sound is obstructed by a bar, but in most cases the currents have cut out channels deep enough to admit the ordinary coasting or fishing vessel of the region. In this manner excellent harbors are provided where the trading-vessels and fishing-smacks may find safe anchorage during stormy weather.

Some of the islands are so low and damp as to be nearly worthless. Others are dry, and have a soil that is remarkably rich, and well adapted to the growth of cotton. Prior to the war the larger islands, especially those in the southern portion of the district, were extensively cultivated by wealthy planters, and a large number of their slaves were kept in the region; but since obtaining their freedom many of the negroes have removed to the higher lands of the interior, and some portions of the coast appear quite deserted, though in other localities a good many blacks and a few whites still remain. On the South Carolina coast the only places of importance are Georgetown, Charleston, and Beaufort; while in Georgia, Savannah and Brunswick are the only sea ports of over five hundred inhabitants.

THESE SHORES A FAVORITE SPAWNING AND FEEDING GROUND FOR VARIOUS FISHES.—The waters of the district, like those of Florida, abound in fish of various kinds during the entire year, and the sounds and their river tributaries are the spawning and feeding grounds of a large number of edible species. The salt-water creeks along the shore abound in shrimp, and the extensive marshes and muddy bays are the homes of large numbers of terrapin.

THE OUTLYING CORAL BANK AN IMPORTANT FISHING GROUND.—At a distance of 10 to 20 miles from the shore, in from 10 to 18 fathoms of water, we find an irregular coral bank extending along the entire coast. It is broken up into patches several miles in extent; these are separated from each other by broad areas of sand. The patches are covered with various species of corals and sponges common to more southern latitudes, and among them are large numbers of mollusks and articulates. The abundance of food on the banks, together with the shelter afforded by the corals, make them the favorite feeding grounds of immense schools of fish, chief among which is the blackfish (*S. atrarius*), from which the banks derive their name. They have long been visited by the smack fishermen of New England, who come south each winter to engage in the capture of blackfish to supply the Charleston and Savannah markets. At present the smack fisheries of the district are confined almost wholly to Charleston, and they will be treated more fully under the fisheries of that city.

THE BOAT FISHERIES.—The shore fisheries of the district are very limited. They are confined largely to the vicinity of Charleston and Savannah, where a market is found for the catch. There are a few other points, also, where Northern fishermen, together with those from Charleston and Savannah, engage extensively in the capture of shad and sturgeon (*Acipenser sturio*), shipping their catch either by water or rail to these markets or through them to the larger cities of the North. In addition to the above many of the inhabitants of the more isolated regions depend largely on the water for their food, and most of them have small boats in which they visit the larger creeks with hook-and-line or cast-nets to catch a supply of fish for their own tables, as well as for those of their neighbors. Few fish, if any, are salted by these people, even for home use, but at certain seasons, when some particular species is unusually abundant, some of the men fish more extensively for several weeks, sending their catch to market.

KINDS OF FISH TAKEN.—The principal species taken along the shore are mullet (*Mugil albula* and *M. braziliensis*), spotted trout (*Cynoscion maculatum*), yellow-finned trout (*Cynoscion regale*), whiting (*Menticirrus alburnus*), croakers (*Micropogon undulatus*), bass (*Sciæna ocellata*), drum (*Pogonias chromis*), blackfish (*Serranus atrarius*), sheepshead (*Diplodus probatocephalus*), porgies (*Stenotomus chrysops* and *Pagellus* sp.), bluefish (*Pomatomus saltatrix*), shad (*Clupea sapidissima*), and sturgeon (*Acipenser sturio*).

THE STURGEON FISHERY.—According to Colonel McDonald, who has given special attention to the subject, the sturgeon fisheries are prosecuted in many of the larger rivers of South Carolina and Georgia by both Northern and resident fishermen. The fishing begins on the Satilla River, in southern Georgia, about the middle of February, and extends northward as the season advances, closing at Georgetown, S. C., about the 1st of May. The sharp-nose sturgeon (*Acipenser sturio*) is the common species of the locality. These fish average 150 pounds each. They are taken wholly in gill-nets of 12-inch mesh, 80 to 150 fathoms in length. The men live in camps on the river bank, and when fish become scarce in one stream they move to another. The principal sturgeon rivers are the Satilla, Altamaha, Ogeechee, Savannah, and Combahee, in Georgia, and the Edisto and Waccamaw in South Carolina. The outfits are usually owned by capitalists who hire their crews at from $25 to $40 per month. An outfit for three men, including net and boat, costs about $130. An average catch for the season is 100 fish to the net in Georgia and 125 to 200 in

South Carolina. The fish are sent either to Savannah or Charleston, where they are dressed and packed for shipment to New York and Philadelphia. In some localities the roe is saved and prepared for market under the name of caviare.

Four Savannah firms were interested in the sturgeon fisheries of Georgia in 1880, and 109 men with 48 nets were engaged in the capture of the species. The catch amounted to 4,800 sturgeon in number, or 312,000 pounds of dressed fish, having a local value of $21,840; 42,000 pounds of roe, worth $2,940, were also saved. In South Carolina there were 44 men, with 21 nets, engaged in this fishery; these marketed 3,825 sturgeon in number, equal to 229,500 pounds of dressed fish, and 38,250 pounds of caviare, valued at $13,770.

The shad fisheries of this district are quite extensive. A detailed account of them will be found under the shad fisheries. The catch is marketed wholly in Charleston and Savannah.

THE TERRAPIN FISHERIES.—Just when and where the terrapin fisheries of this district were inaugurated we have been unable to learn, but prior to the rebellion a large number of men engaged regularly in the fishery, and several thousand dozen were shipped annually to the Northern markets, the fishermen receiving an average of $6 per dozen for their catch. It is said that the fishery was at its height, both as to number of men employed and capital invested, in 1860. At that time a few Northern fishermen visited the region in small sloops, and parties from Charleston and Savannah had vessels and boats for the same purpose. During the war the fishery was wholly discontinued, but in 1866 it was again pushed with a good deal of vigor, and from 5,000 to 6,000 dozen terrapin were caught between April and November. One vessel with six men landed 870 dozen.

Terrapin have been and are still quite abundant in most of the sounds and tide-creeks of the district, but are said to be most numerous in Bull's Bay, and in Saint Helena and Saint Andrew's Sounds. They are usually caught in haul-seines 60 to 90 fathoms long, and 18 to 20 feet deep. The vessel, with a crew of three to six men and one or two boats and seines, enters the larger sounds, and the fishermen visit the little creeks in their bateaux in search of the terrapin. On entering a stream they often pound on the gunwale of the boat, and if terrapin are present they are said to rise to the surface to learn the occasion of the noise. If none are seen the net is seldom set; but if plenty, one staff of the seine is stuck in the mud of the bottom and the net is thrown out in the form of a circle, after which it is rapidly hauled into the boat. This method is locally known as "bucking." When the surroundings are suitable the net is often hauled upon the shore. The fishing season usually lasts from the time the terrapin make their appearance in April till the middle of October, when they bed in the mud for the winter. Occasionally these winter beds are discovered and whole colonies are captured. Bucking was formerly the principal method employed in the capture of the species, but as the fisheries have declined a method known as "torching" has been extensively adopted by the negroes of the locality, who visit the sandy beaches at night with large fire-brands, and catch the terrapin as they crawl out on the sand to deposit their eggs.

For the past ten years this fishery has been on the decline, owing largely to the lack of a suitable market and to a growing scarcity of terrapin. At present no one follows this fishery during the entire year, but a number engage in it for a few weeks when the terrapin can be most easily secured, after which they seek other employment.

The price now paid by the terrapin dealers varies from 10 to 35 cents each for "counts," with a proportionate reduction for smaller sizes down to 5 inches. "Bulls" measuring less than 5 inches have little value, and are usually not considered marketable.

In 1879 there were thirty-seven men, with sixteen nets, engaged in this fishery, in addition to the "torchers;" and the total catch was about 1,200 dozen, having a local value of $3,600.

THE BULK OF THE FISHING NEAR THE LARGER CITIES.—The fisheries are confined chiefly to the vicinity of the larger settlements. A description of the fisheries of the principal cities, including Georgetown, Charleston, and Beaufort, in South Carolina, and Savannah and Brunswick, in Georgia, will therefore include everything of importance connected with the fisheries of both States.

B.—THE FISHERIES OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

180. STATISTICAL RECAPITULATION.

South Carolina comes twentieth in the list of fish-producing States, with 1,005 fishermen and products valued at $212,482. This State is, however, noted for its shrimp fisheries, which are more extensive than those of any other State, and nearly equal to those of all other States combined. In 1880 the fishermen secured 18,000 bushels, valued at $37,500. The principal sea fisheries are about Charleston, where several hundred negroes, with an occasional Spaniard, are engaged in fishing with hand-lines from vessels and small boats to supply the city with whiting, blackfish, and other species. A limited fishery occurs in the sounds about Beaufort, from which point a few fish are shipped to the interior cities. Beyond the places mentioned no sea fishing of importance occurs, though there is more or less fishing for local supply along all portions of the coast. About 400,000 pounds of alewives, 207,600 pounds of shad, and 261,250 pounds of sturgeon, with considerable quantities of other species, were taken by the river fishermen, the largest fisheries being on the Edisto River and in the tributaries of Winyah Bay.

The extent of the commercial fishery interests of the State are fully shown in the annexed statements:

Summary statement of persons employed.

Persons employed.	Number.
Fishermen	964
Shoremen	41
Total	1,005

Detailed statement of capital invested and apparatus employed.

Apparatus specified.	Number.	Value.
Vessels (337.32 tons)	22	$15,000
Boats	501	9,790
Pound-nets and hack-traps	10	800
Fykes, pots, and baskets	20	100
Gill-nets	66	3,415
Dip-nets and cast-nets	440	2,565
Drag-seines	44	2,725
Minor apparatus, including outfit		16,380
Factories and other shore property		11,550
Additional cash capital		3,950
Total capital		66,275

Detailed statement of the quantities and values of the products.

Products specified.	Pounds.	Value.
Grand total for fishery products	6,143,250	$212,482
Sea fisheries.		
Bluefish	200,000	4,000
Clams (hard)	48,000	3,300
Crabs	42,000	750
Mullet	232,000	7,210
Oysters	350,000	20,000
Shrimp	630,000	37,500
Spotted sea-trout	180,000	4,500
Squeteague	290,000	5,800
Terrapin	23,400	1,950
All other species	3,104,000	88,115
Total sea products	5,099,400	173,125
River fisheries.		
Alewives	400,000	9,000
Shad	207,600	12,432
Sturgeon, including caviare	261,250	15,675
All other species	175,000	2,250
Total river products	1,043,850	39,357

The statistics of the sea-fisheries of South Carolina are shown in the following statements:

Summary statement of persons employed.

Persons employed.	Number.
Fishermen	629
Shoremen	24
Total	653

Detailed statement of capital invested and apparatus employed.

Apparatus specified.	Number.	Value.
Vessels (157.32 tons)	10	$10,900
Boats	237	4,250
Fykes, pots, and baskets	20	100
Gill-nets	10	250
Drag-seines	43	2,650
Dip-nets and cast-nets	310	2,175
Minor apparatus, including outfit		10,900
Factories and other shore property		7,000
Cash capital		3,950
Total capital		42,175

Detailed statement of the quantities and values of the products.

Products specified.	Pounds.	Value.
Bluefish	200,000	$4,000
Clams (hard)	48,000	3,300
Crabs	42,000	750
Mullet	232,000	7,210
Shrimp	630,000	37,500
Spotted sea-trout	180,000	4,500
Squeteague	290,000	5,800
Terrapin	23,400	1,950
All other species	3,104,000	88,115
Total	4,749,400	153,125

181. GEORGETOWN AND ITS FISHERIES.

Georgetown is a village of 1,200 inhabitants, situated at the head of Winyah Bay, about 50 miles northeast of Charleston. It is located in the midst of a large rice-growing section, and has also a large trade in lumber. It has no railroad communication with the interior, and sail-vessels are largely depended upon for the transportation of heavy materials to and from the place. A small steamer makes weekly trips between Georgetown and Charleston, this being its only regular communication with the outside world.

Its fisheries, owing to the poor shipping facilities, are largely of a local nature, except in the spring, when fishermen come from the North to engage in the shad and sturgeon fisheries. According to Colonel McDonald, thirty-nine men, with fifteen nets, are engaged in the former, and thirty-two men, with sixteen nets, in the latter fishery, between the last of January and the 1st of May. Of these, forty are from the North, and the remainder are chiefly resident negroes, who are hired to assist them during the season. The shad are mostly consumed in Charleston, and the sturgeon are shipped by way of Charleston to Philadelphia and New York.

The only shipment of salt-water fishes is during the fall and winter months, when mullet and trout are taken in large quantities; after supplying the local demand the remainder are sent to Charleston. The number shipped in this way varies considerably from year to year, but averages about 5,000 bunches of mullet and 500 to 800 bunches of mixed fish. The total catch for 1879, exclusive of shad and sturgeon, is estimated at 12,000 strings of mullet and 5,000 bunches of mixed fish, valued at $2,500.

182. CHARLESTON AND ITS FISHERY INTERESTS.

CHARLESTON AS A COMMERCIAL CENTER.—Charleston, the metropolis of South Carolina, occupies a peninsula bounded by the Cooper and Ashley Rivers. It has a spacious harbor, with sufficient water at low tide to admit all vessels of light and medium draught, while those of larger size can enter with safety during the hours of high water. It has, therefore, a prominent place among the seaports of the country, and ranks as the third commercial city of the South. It was settled by the English in 1679. In 1800 its population was about 19,000; in 1850, 43,000; and in 1870, despite the disastrous effects of the war, it had increased to 49,000. The chief business of the city is the exportation of cotton, rice, and naval stores, together with the manufacture and shipment of fertilizers from the celebrated phosphate beds of the locality.

THE CHARLESTON FISHERIES IN ANTE-BELLUM DAYS.—The fisheries of Charleston are now more important than those of any other city between Sandy Hook and Key West, and, barring Atlantic City, it is the only place between New Jersey and Florida that has a vessel fleet engaged regularly in the food-fish fisheries throughout the year. For many years prior to the rebellion the fisheries were controlled largely by Northern fishermen, together with Spaniards, free negroes, and a few others who bought their time from their masters. At that time the vessel fisheries were very extensive, and a greater part of the supply was landed by the smacks. In 1860, according to Mr. J. S. Terry, the oldest fish dealer of the city, there were about fifteen New England smacks engaged in fishing for the Charleston market during the winter months. These came South in the early fall and remained till the middle or last of May. They engaged chiefly in the capture of blackfish (*Serranus atrarius*) and landed enormous quantities, it being not an uncommon sight to see 100,000 in the cars of the dealers at one time. At this time Charleston had a large shipping trade, supplying the entire region, including Savannah, with the greater part of their fish during the winter months. Very few fish were shipped in summer, and after the smacks

went North the city was supplied by the few small boats of the place, while in some cases slaves were detailed to supply the tables of their masters.

CHANGES IN THE EXTENT AND METHODS OF THE FISHERIES DURING THE PAST TWENTY YEARS.—The fisheries of Charleston at present are quite different from those just described. With the completion of the Florida railroads extensive fisheries have been established in that State, and its fishermen are now supplying a large part of the country formerly dependent on Charleston. This competition has had its effect upon the fisheries of Charleston, and has tended toward a great reduction of the fishery interests of the place. Other causes, however, have more than counteracted the injurious effects of competition, and the fisheries of to-day are more extensive than those of the past.

The emancipation proclamation threw a large class of people upon their own resources, and the first impulse of freedom led many to forsake their old masters and plantation life, and to seek employment in the city. With their natural love for boating and fishing many of them drifted into the fisheries as a desirable way of obtaining a livelihood. Finding their earnings equal to those of any other class, and the work usually lighter, the number of fishermen has gradually increased until in 1880 there were nearly 600 people either catching or handling fish during some portion of the year, with about 1,700 people depending upon them for support. Of this entire number, 94 per cent. are negroes, about 4 per cent. are Spaniards, and only 2 per cent. are Americans.

The demand for fish has greatly increased, for many of the negroes who cannot afford the luxury of a meat dinner, live largely on the cheaper grades of fish as giving the greatest bulk for the least money. New markets in other sections have also been opened up, and Charleston is now supplying many of the villages of North and South Carolina and Georgia with their fish; while a few are sent to the markets of the north. The result of the change above mentioned is that Charleston is no longer dependent upon the northern fishermen, but is supplied chiefly by her own citizens; and instead of the fifteen northern smacks of 1860, there is now but one, with ten additional owned in Charleston, seven of which fish during the entire year, and the others fish occasionally while acting as harbor pilot boats.

THE VESSEL FISHERIES OF CHARLESTON.—The smacks vary in size from 10 to 30 tons, and in value from $300 to $2,000. They are manned and officered exclusively by negroes and Spaniards, carrying from four to six men each. They fish wholly for blackfish (*S. atrarius*), though a few porgies (*Stenotomus chrysops* and *Pagellus* sp), jacks (*Seriola carolinensis?*), red-snappers (*Lutjanus Blackfordii*), bastard-snappers (*Sparus pagrus*), grunts (*Diabasis chrysopterus* and *D. formosus*), bream (*Sargus Holbrookii*), squirrel-fish (*Diplectrum fasciculare*), and hake (*Phycis Earllii*), are taken. They make Charleston their headquarters, and remain in harbor during the stormy weather. The grounds visited are the coral banks, 10 to 18 miles from the shore, extending to Bull's Bay on the north, and to Saint Helena Sound on the south. They are usually absent from four to six days on a trip, and when sudden storms arise they often put into the nearest harbor for shelter.

The fish are taken wholly with hand-lines from the vessel's deck. One man usually tends two lines with four to eight hooks each, the lead being placed at the extreme end several feet below the hooks to prevent them from becoming entangled in the coral of the bottom.

The catch varies greatly from day to day and from year to year, and is claimed to be less than formerly, though we find no good reason for believing that such is the case.

In January, 1858, the smack Connecticut, of Noank, Conn., took 3,200 blackfish in a single day; and in the winter of 1872–'73, the Althea Franklin, Capt. B. F. Baker, of the same port, landed 45,000 "count" blackfish, equal to 50,000 individuals, beside 5,000 other fish, between October 1 and April 15. At present the catch averages 30,000 fish yearly for each smack, and the

stock is usually about $2,000, though a vessel fishing regularly when the weather is suitable will do considerably better, and there are occasional catches equaling those of former years.

The fish are brought alive to the city where they are transferred to the cars of the dealers. The price realized by the fishermen is 6 cents apiece for those weighing 8 ounces and upwards; smaller fish are counted 3 for 2, or 2 for 1.

THE BOAT FISHERIES.—The boat fisheries of Charleston have gradually grown in importance until at the present time several hundred men engage regularly in the business during the spring, summer, and fall. In winter many of the fishermen, finding the weather stormy and the hook-and-line fish at a considerable distance from the shore, seek employment as stevedores or laborers on the cotton wharves of the city, this being the busy season of the year. During December and January the boat fisheries are prosecuted only by the seine fishermen, who visit the numerous hauling beaches along the banks of the rivers and in the numerous tide-creeks, from 10 to 30 miles on either side of the city, catching trout, small mullet, bass, and numerous other species.

Early in January the shad fishermen begin their preparations for fishing on the Edisto, Pedee, Santee, and Ashapoo Rivers, and by the last of the month they are actively engaged in the work. The fisheries continue in this condition until the middle of April, when the whiting (*Menticirrus alburnus*) reach the shore. The work on the wharves is now nearly over, and the men, after repairing their fishing lines and putting their boats in order, are again off for the fishing grounds. When the shad fishermen return late in April they at once lay aside their seines and nets and join in the hand-line fishery. The line fishing continues till late in November.

The fishing is wholly from small open sail-boats, which carry from two to seven men each. One man usually owns the boat, and the others pay from 10 to 20 cents a day for the privilege of sharing it. In spring the boats fish along the outer shore within a few miles of the harbor, so that they can run in when a storm comes suddenly upon them. During the summer months the fishermen become more bold, and many of them resort to the inner blackfish banks, 10 to 15 miles from land, for porgies, grunts, bastard snappers, and blackfish, while others remain on the inshore grounds catching summer trout, skipjacks, croakers, and whiting. Each fisherman keeps his fish separate, and during the homeward passage strings them into bunches of 3 to 5 pounds each, and on arriving at the wharf he sells them from the boat to dealers or peddlers at 8 to 30 cents a bunch, according to the kind and the condition of the market. No one is allowed to retail his fish at the landing. The average catch is from 12 to 20 bunches to the man, and the price realized from their sale averages between $2 and $3.50 daily.

THE MULLET FISHERY.—In September the "fat mullet" arrive, and the seine fishermen lay aside their lines and repair to the outer shores of Sullivan's and Long Islands with drag-seines. The roe mullet arrive in October, and a few of the fishermen continue in the fishery till they again disappear; but the majority return and fish with hook and line for whiting, that are quite plenty from this date till the 10th of December. Large numbers of mullet are often taken during the season. In 1859 it is said that 4,200 bunches, equal to 18,000 fish, were taken at one haul of the seine on the beach at Sullivan's Island, and in 1868, 3,000 bunches, or 13,000 fish, were taken at a single haul in the same locality. In 1879 there were seventy-two men, with twelve seines, engaged in this fishery. The largest single haul was 1,100 bunches, or 5,000 mullet; and the average catch for the season was about 2,500 strings to the net. The fish were sold fresh in Charleston at an average of 12 cents a bunch, only an occasional barrel being salted for family use.

Early in December the weather becomes stormy, and the whiting leave the shore. The fishermen owning seines then engage in the capture of trout and other species in the creeks, while the remainder work on the wharves till the following April.

THE SHRIMP FISHERY.—Another fishery of peculiar importance at Charleston is that for shrimp and prawn. The fishing had not fairly begun at the time of our visit to Charleston, and we are indebted to Messrs. C. C. Leslie, J. S. Terry, and others for the information concerning it. Shrimp are taken in any of the rivers and creeks from the 1st of April till the middle of November. In April they seem to occur only in particular localities, and six seines, with crews of six men each, are employed in their capture during the two or three hours of low water at night, the lucky boats often securing 10 to 20 bushels, while the less fortunate ones return with only 4 or 5. Early in May, when the shrimp become more plenty, the seines are laid aside, and their owners, with many others, provide themselves with cast nets and engage regularly in the business. The fishing soon reaches its height, when it is said that one hundred and twenty men and boys, with sixty boats, are regularly employed in the capture of the species. During June and July the daily catch often exceeds 100 plates, of about 1 quart each, to the boat, and the average for the season is not less than 60 to 75 plates per day.

All of the shrimp taken during the first of the season find a ready sale at about 50 cents a plate to the hook-and-line fishermen of the city, who use them as bait in the shore fisheries. During seasons of scarcity they sometimes sell as high as 2 cents each, or nearly $1 per plate. The fishermen prefer shrimp to any other bait, and think them almost indispensable to their success. Each man buys from 1 to 2 plates daily, according to the fishing that he expects. As they become more plenty the price declines to 25, then to 15, and later to 10 cents; the average retail market price is 15 cents, and from the boats 8 to 10 cents.

In addition to the men catching shrimp, a large number are engaged in vending them through the streets of the city. Taking these into account, the shrimp fisheries of Charleston, according to the most reliable estimates, give employment to two hundred people during seven months of the year; and the shrimp taken have a value of fully $35,000 at first hands, and their retail value is nearly $60,000. Of the entire catch, all but a few hundred bushels are used in the city.

AN UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPT TO ESTABLISH A MENHADEN FISHERY AT CHARLESTON.—We are informed by Capt. Samuel Corker and others that menhaden (*Brevoortia tyrannus*) are often very abundant in the Charleston waters. About the 1st of April these fish make their appearance in large schools a few miles from the shore, and continue to increase in numbers for several weeks. Later they gradually disappear, and in midsummer are much less plenty. They are again abundant in the fall, at which time they enter the numerous bays and tide-creeks along the shore, where they are said to remain till late in December.

Captain Corker, who is one of the most enterprising colored fishermen of the South, was for several years employed in the menhaden fisheries of Long Island Sound, where he became thoroughly acquainted with the methods of fishing and the work in the factory. Returning to Charleston in 1876, he decided to engage in the menhaden fisheries after the manner of the Northern fishermen. Accordingly he secured the necessary outfit, including schooner, purse-seines, kettles, and presses, and when all was in readiness started for the fishing grounds. He soon had a school of about 200 barrels of fish inclosed in his seine, but before he could dip them out the sharks gathered for the feast, biting and tearing the netting in their efforts to get at the menhaden, until nothing remained but the cork and lead-lines. The sharks gained the day, for, taking up the remnant of his seine, Captain Corker returned to the shore and gave up the business. This attempt is noteworthy as being the most southern point where the purse-seine has been used, and indeed the only point south of Wilmington, N. C., where an attempt has been made to catch the menhaden for their oil.

THE RETAIL FISH TRADE OF CHARLESTON.—Prior to the war there was but one firm in

Charleston that did an extensive business in fresh fish, and the trade was largely controlled by peddlers, who vended them through the streets. At the present time there are five firms that do a regular business. These rent stalls in the market, where they do a retail business, and have packing-houses where they box and ice their fish for shipment. Other parties occasionally rent stalls for a day or two, and sell fish, crabs, or shrimp; but the market trade is largely controlled by the five firms. A few cod (*Gadus morrhua*), haddock (*Melanogrammus æglefinus*), and halibut (*Hippoglossus americanus*) are brought from the North during the winter months by one of the firms, and red snappers and other species are occasionally brought from Savannah; but aside from these the market is supplied wholly by the Charleston fishermen. The fish dealers of the city, however, control but a small part of the retail trade, for the bulk of the catch is taken directly to the consumer by negroes, who go about the city with trays of fish and shrimp upon their heads.

About the beginning of the present century the city government passed a law imposing a tax of one cent on each and every bunch of fish sold by peddlers, and considerable money was gathered into the treasury from this source. But as the trade increased a disposition to dishonesty became noticeable; this was carried to such an extent as to seriously affect the city's revenue from this source. In 1878 the law was repealed and another was enacted requiring each vender to pay a license of $1 a month for the privilege of selling within the city limits. This law is often evaded and already, according to the clerk of the market, many are peddling fish without a license. For the month of April, 1878, before the old law was repealed, the books of the market officials showed eighty-nine different parties engaged in selling fish during some part of the month, though some names appeared only two or three times. In April, 1879, there were but thirty-three licenses granted. From a conversation with the above officer we are led to believe that this business is not decreasing, as the books would indicate, but that many are selling without a license, and that fully fifty men are now largely dependent on this business for a livelihood, while, at times, the number is doubtless considerably larger. No license is required for the sale of shrimp and crabs, and as a result this business has been greatly overdone, there being frequently over one hundred people engaged in peddling them through the streets.

CHARLESTON AS A DISTRIBUTING CENTER.—The shipping trade, as has been said, is controlled wholly by the five market firms. Those doing the largest business are J. S. Terry & Co. and C. C. Leslie. The business is confined chiefly to the larger cities of North and South Carolina, though a few fish are sent to Georgia, Tennessee, and Kentucky. A few shad and bass are sent North each season, but in 1879 the quantity was unusually small. The shipping season is from September to May, the extreme heat preventing any trade with the country during the summer months. According to Mr. C. C. Leslie, the shipments from Charleston during the season of 1879–'80 were about 80,000 bunches of "string fish," 7,000 to 8,000 shad, 230,000 pounds of dressed sturgeon, and 38,000 pounds of sturgeon roe. The sturgeon and sturgeon roe are simply repacked in Charleston on their way from the sturgeon camps on Winyah Bay and the Edisto River to the New York and Philadelphia markets.

183. THE FISHERIES OF BEAUFORT AND PORT ROYAL.

ADVANTAGES OF LOCATION.—Beaufort, a village of one thousand five hundred inhabitants, is situated on a river of the same name, a few miles above the point where it empties into Port Royal Bay. It has long been noted as a summer resort, and many of the people of the interior spend several months of each year in this locality. The village has a small trade in lumber and is the commercial center of a large agricultural section.

About 4 miles below Beaufort is Port Royal, a village of three hundred inhabitants, situated

on a branch of the Beaufort River at the head of navigation for large vessels. It has an excellent location as a shipping point; and though 20 miles from the bar, it has the deepest water of any harbor between Chesapeake Bay and Southern Florida, and seems destined to become one of the leading seaports of the South.

THE EXTENT OF THE FISHERIES.—The fisheries of the region are of little importance except for drum (*P. chromis*), though the location is good and fish are reported very plenty. At Beaufort there seems to be no organized fishery, and it is often quite difficult to get a supply for local consumption. Six men calling themselves fishermen fish with more or less regularity, while others go out occasionally for pleasure and profit. Two crews come to the region from Charleston in the spring to secure fish and shrimp; but they usually send the bulk of their catch to Charleston for a market.

At Port Royal two seines are owned and fished along the river banks in the spring and fall; and twenty to twenty-five men from the vicinity are engaged in taking shrimp and prawn with cast-nets. Part of the catch is sold locally at Beaufort and Port Royal and to the fleet of naval vessels stationed there, but the greater part are sold to the "train hands" who peddle them out along the line of the railroad.

THE MORE IMPORTANT FOOD-FISHES OF THE LOCALITY.—The principal species taken are drum (*P. chromis*), mullet (*M. albula* and *M. braziliensis*), whiting (*M. alburnus*), trout (*C. maculatum*), bass (*S. ocellata*), sheepshead (*D. probatocephalus*), blackfish (*S. atrarius*), and croaker (*M. undulatus*).

DRUM FISHING IN BROAD RIVER.—Probably no portion of the Atlantic coast is visited by such large schools of drum as Port Royal Sound and Broad River, and the drum fisheries of this section are more extensive than those of any other locality in the United States. The fish receives its name from the peculiar drumming sound which it makes during the breeding season; at all other times it is said to be mute. Broad River has long been a favorite spawning ground for this species, and thither the fish resort in immense schools each spring. They are said to arrive early in March and are soon very abundant on all of the hard clayey and rocky spots in the river for a distance of 20 miles from its mouth, where they are taken in considerable numbers till the middle of May. If present at other seasons they are seldom caught with a hook.

The drum taken in this section are quite large, the smallest individuals seldom weighing less than 25 pounds, while the average weight is fully 55 pounds. The largest specimen of which there is any authentic record was taken by one of the crew of the United States steamship New Hampshire, in the spring of 1880. It weighed 108 pounds as it came from the water.

Prior to the war many of the planters of the interior came to Beaufort each spring to enjoy the sport of drum fishing. They often brought their negroes along to catch a supply for plantation use. Many were taken in this way. In curing, the fish were first "slivered," after which they were dry-salted for future use. Few, if any, were shipped fresh to the larger markets. Since the war the fishery has passed largely into the hands of the negroes, who bring most of their fish fresh to Beaufort and sell them to the dealers or residents of the village at from 25 cents to $1 apiece. A few are occasionally salted by the fishermen. The principal fishing grounds are in Broad River, between Paris Island and Skull Creek.

The fishing is wholly with hand-lines in 20 to 25 feet of water. It begins early in March, when many of the negroes from Beaufort, Port Royal, and the various islands engage in the fishery from small bateaux, while a few larger craft come from Savannah. Soon the fishery is at its height, and from seventy-five to one hundred boats, with one to six men each, are engaged to a greater or less extent. Some fish only a few days, while others fish constantly, when the weather will permit,

from the arrival of the fish to the close of the season, which usually lasts about eight weeks. A fair estimate would be about one hundred and twenty men, with fifty boats, engaged regularly during the entire season. The catch will average about four or five fish a week to the man, or one for each fishing day. This, it must be remembered, is an *average* catch, for instances have occurred within a few months where ten to twenty good-sized drum were taken in two or three hours by an expert fisherman, while again several days may pass without a fish being secured. The total catch for the season of 1880 was 3,850 fish, or about 211,000 pounds, valued at $2,700. Three-fourths of the catch goes to Beaufort, one-fifth to Savannah, and the remainder to Port Royal and the islands along the shore. About 700 drum are shipped from Beaufort, the greater part going to Charleston.

HON. WILLIAM ELLIOTT'S ACCOUNT OF THE DRUM FISHERY.—Since the above was written our attention has been called to the admirable little book entitled *Carolina Sports*, by Hon. William Elliott, in which the drum fisheries of Broad River are described. Though the volume was not published till 1859, portions of it—the chapter on the drum fisheries among others—were written long before, some of them appearing in one or more of the leading periodicals as early as 1837. As the fishery as it existed at that time is shown in detail, it will be found of considerable interest historically. I reproduce here a greater part of the article:

"In the month of April they [drum] abound on the seacoast of South Carolina, and great numbers penetrate our inlets for the purpose of depositing their spawn. The large bay or sound known on the maps as 'Port Royal Harbor,' but locally as 'Broad River,' is their chosen place of resort, and constitutes the best fishing station. If you ask me *why* they give the preference to this particular spot, I answer you—conjecturally—because, while it is the deepest and most capacious bay along our whole southern coast, it is at the same time the saltest, there being no important streams from the interior emptying themselves into it and neutralizing the properties of the sea water.

* * * * * * *

"It is the largest scale fish in America. It measures ordinarily 3 feet in length, and weighs from 30 to 40 pounds. It is beautifully marked on the sides by broad, dark transverse stripes, alternating with silver, or else exhibits a uniform bright gold color, which fades, soon after it is taken, into the hues already described. I give the medium weight and size of the fish, not the extreme. I have taken one which measured 4 feet 6 inches in length, and weighed 85 pounds. Out of 20 taken by me on a particular day during the present season (April) there were 3 weighing from 65 to 70 pounds each. The smaller sized fish are excellent for table use—their roes, especially, are a great delicacy; the larger are only valuable when salted and cured like codfish, from which, when dressed, they are scarcely distinguishable in flavor. The planters of this vicinity are skillful fishermen, and much devoted to the sport. They succeeded in taking during the last season at least 12,000 of these fish; and when I add, that except the small number consumed in their families, the remainder were salted and distributed among their slaves, not in lieu of, but in addition to their ordinary subsistence, you will perceive that this is a case wherein the love of sport and the practice of charity, are singularly coincident.

"And now for the manner of taking them.

"The sportsman must provide himself with a substantial boat impelled both by oars and sail, and with at least 15 fathoms of rope to his grapnel. His line must be 30 fathoms, and furnished with two pounds of lead, distributed in movable sinkers which draw up or let down, according to the strength of the tide. He must lay in a good stock of crabs, clams, and prawn, for bait; and having launched his boat on the bosom of this beautiful bay, and come to anchor in about five or six fathoms of water, on gravelly or rocky bottom, he has done everything which can be considered as prerequisite to a successful fishing. Having baited your hook with either or with a mixture

of these different baits (the prawn, though thirty years ago unknown as a bait for drum, are decidedly the best), let out your line until it keeps the bottom, and stand prepared for a bite. The unpacticed sportsman who supposes that their bite will be in proportion to their size and strength, will draw up many a naked hook before he draws a fish. They approach cautiously, and almost as if they expected a snare. As soon as you feel him certainly at your hook, jerk with your utmost strength, and draw quickly upon him until you have fixed the hook in his jaws. The instant he feels the smart he dashes off with all his force; and this is the critical moment, for if you resist him too forcibly, he breaks your tackle or tears out your hook, and if you give him slack line, he darts toward you, and shakes the hook out of his mouth. A just medium, as Sterne says, prevents all conclusions. *In medio tutissimus ibis.* You must give him play, keeping your line tight, yet not overstrained; preserving an equable pressure; managing your line with one hand, and keeping the other in reserve, either to draw in rapidly when the run is toward you or to regulate the velocity when the run is against you, and severe. By degrees the efforts of the fish relax, and he is drawn to the surface. At the sight of the sun he makes a final effort to escape, and plunges till he has reached the bottom. The fatal hook still adheres to his jaws, and when he reappears exhausted on the surface of the water, it is only to turn on his back and resign himself to his fate. A barbed iron, fastened to a wooden staff, is then struck into him and you lift your prize into the boat. Generally speaking, you are occupied five minutes in taking a fish; but if the tide be strong, and the fish large, your sport may last fifteen.

"There is great uncertainty attending this sport; the patience of the fisherman may be severely tested. Sometimes you have the mortification to hear them drumming beneath your boat, while they stubbornly refuse to be taken, rejecting untasted the most tempting baits you can offer; at other times they are in better humor. As a general rule, with five lines in your boat, you may count on 15 or 20 fish as the result of a day's sport. Occasionally, you have memorable luck: 63 were taken during the present season, by a boat with seven lines, and I once knew a boat with ten lines to take as many as 96. The best success I have met with personally was to take 40 to three lines; 18 fish fell to my share of the sport; my two oarsmen took the remainder. Thirty fish were all that the boat could conveniently contain; her gunwale was but a few inches above the water, and we slung the 10 (which were *de trop*) alongside by a rope.

* * * * * * *

"I love all sports whether by flood or field, and have engaged in many an animating scene of sylvan and aquatic amusement, but I have found none, devil-fishing alone excepted, possessed of so absorbing an interest as successful drum fishing. Imagine yourself afloat on our beautiful bay, the ocean before you, the islands encircling you, and a fleet of forty or fifty fishing boats (their white awnings glistening in the sun) riding sociably around. Suddenly a school of fish strike at some particular boat; second is engaged; the direction of the school is indicated; the boats out of the run of the fish draw up their anchors and place themselves rapidly alongside, or in the rear of the successful boats, and soon they participate in the sport. And now, two, three, a dozen, nay, twenty boats, are engaged; in some boats 3 at a time are drawn alongside; the fish dart across each other; the lines are entangled; the water foams with the lashing of their tails, and the fisherman scarce knows, while they flounder on the surface, which fish belongs to his own hook, which to his neighbors; the barb is dashed hurriedly and at random into the yet struggling fish, and each one is burning with anxiety to secure his fish and return to the sport before the favorable moment has passed. The interest is intense. Isaac Walton knew nothing like this. If he had, he must have disdained all smaller fry, and have abandoned the impaling of minnows and the enticement of trout, to indulge in the superior pleasure of drum fishing."*

* Carolina Sports. W. Elliott, pp. 123–129.

SEINE FISHING IN THE LOCALITY BY THE CREW OF A NORTHERN VESSEL.—In addition to the local fisheries, a Northern fishing smack came to Port Royal in 1877 to seine fish for shipment to the Northern markets, but after a year's fishing at various points between Charleston and Fernandina the business was abandoned by the crew, who pronounced it a failure financially.

A NEW BEDFORD WHALER VISITS THE REGION.—A whaling vessel, the Charles W. Morse, Captain Hazard, of New Bedford, came to this region in the fall of 1878, to cruise along the shore, making her headquarters at Port Royal. Meeting with good success, she returned the following season and was again fairly successful. Whales are said to be now more plenty along the coast of South Carolina and Georgia than they have been for many years.

C.—THE FISHERIES OF GEORGIA.

184. STATISTICAL RECAPITULATION.

The sea fisheries of Georgia are as yet almost wholly undeveloped, and the State comes, next to Eastern Florida, lowest on the list of the Atlantic bordering States. Immense quantities of edible fish of various species gather in the numerous sounds and bays, and along the outer shore, but comparatively few are taken, and the people are largely dependent upon the fishermen of Western Florida for their supply. In 1880 the value of all sea products, exclusive of oysters, was only $19,225. The oysters taken were valued at $35,000, making the total value of the sea products $54,225. The river fisheries are more fully developed, and the Savannah, Ogeechee, and Altamaha each yield considerable quantities of fresh-water and anadromous species. The principal fish taken are shad and sturgeon; of the former 252,000 pounds and of the latter 354,000 pounds were caught in 1880.

The following statements show in detail the extent of the fishery interests of the State for the year 1880:

Summary statement of persons employed.

Persons employed.	Number.
Number of fishermen	809
Number of shoremen	90
Total	899

Detailed statement of capital invested and apparatus employed.

Apparatus specified.	Number.	Value.
Vessels (12 tons)	1	$450
Boats	356	15,425
Pound-nets and hack-traps	110	1,650
Fykes, pots, and baskets	90	650
Gill-nets	251	9,120
Dip-nets and cast-nets	127	685
Drag-seines	17	800
Minor apparatus, including outfit		5,540
Factories and other shore property		32,750
Additional cash capital		11,700
Total capital		78,770

Detailed statement of the quantities and values of the products.

Products specified.	Pounds.	Value.
Grand total for fishery products	2,272,500	$119,993
Sea fisheries.		
Bluefish	5,000	100
Clams (hard)	24,000	1,650
Crabs	7,200	125
Mullet	106,000	4,100
Oysters	490,000	35,000
Shrimp	56,000	4,000
Spotted sea-trout	90,000	1,800
Squeteague	32,000	480
Terrapin	19,800	1,650
All other species	152,000	5,320
Total sea products	982,000	54,225
River fisheries.		
Alewives	125,000	3,750
Shad	252,000	17,941
Sturgeon	354,000	24,780
All other species	559,500	19,297
Total river products	1,290,500	65,768

The following statements give the statistics of the salt-water fisheries of Georgia, exclusive of the oyster industry:

Summary statement of persons employed.

Persons employed.	Number.
Fishermen	121
Shoremen	40
Total	161

Detailed statement of capital invested and apparatus employed.

Apparatus specified.	Number.	Value.
Boats	66	$2,250
Fykes, pots, and baskets	50	250
Gill-nets	40	800
Drag-seines	17	800
Dip-nets and cast-nets	115	625
Minor apparatus, including outfit		200
Factories and other shore property		27,000
Cash capital		11,700
Total capital		43,625

Detailed statement of the quantities and values of the products.

Products specified.	Pounds.	Value.
Bluefish	5,000	$100
Clams (hard)	24,000	1,650
Crabs	7,200	125
Mullet	106,000	4,100
Shrimp	56,000	4,000
Spotted sea-trout	90,000	1,800
Squeteague	32,000	480
Terrapin	19,800	1,650
All other species	152,000	5,320
Total	492,000	19,225

185. SAVANNAH AND ITS FISHERY INTERESTS.

SAVANNAH AS A COMMERCIAL CENTER.—Savannah, the metropolis and only important commercial city on the Georgia coast, is located on the south bank of the Savannah River, about 20 miles from the sea. It was settled by General Oglethorpe in 1733 and incorporated as a city in 1789. In 1850 it had a population of 15,300, and in 1870 of 28,200. Since that time it has grown very rapidly, and has now come to be one of the principal seaports of the South, ranking third in the United States in the exportation of cotton, and doing considerable business in the shipment of lumber and naval stores.

SAVANNAH AS A FISHING TOWN.—The city has a peculiar relation to the fisheries, for its large trade with the interior, together with its excellent shipping facilities by either land or water, make it an important point for the fresh-fish trade, while its distance from the sea renders the capture of ocean species a laborious, though we may safely say, not an unprofitable employment.

THE VESSEL FISHERIES OF SAVANNAH.—One or more smacks have been employed in fishing for the Savannah market from time to time, but as the water in the vicinity of the city is fresh it is found impossible to keep the fish in cars. The nearest salt water is five miles from the city by land and considerably farther by water, and the inconvenience and expense of keeping the fish at so great a distance render the smack-fisheries unprofitable. Occasionally smacks have fished on the various banks between Charleston and Fernandina, running their fish direct to the city and transferring them at once from the vessel's well to the ice-boxes of the dealers. In 1879 there was one vessel, the Lillian, of Noank, Conn., fishing for the Savannah market. She caught her fish at Indian River Inlet, Florida, with a haul-seine, and carried them to market in ice.

THE EXTENT OF THE COAST FISHERIES.—The boat fisheries of Savannah are very limited. They are confined largely to the fresh-water and anadromous species, though the sounds along the shore are well filled with excellent food-fishes. Formerly several crews from Charleston came regularly to the region with seines and gill-nets, and fished for the Savannah market, meeting with excellent success; but nothing has been done in this line for several years.

The only coast fishing at the present time is by parties living on some of the shore islands, and by fishermen from the city, who visit the sounds occasionally for the purpose of fishing. The business is, however, of little importance.

THE SHRIMP FISHERIES.—Shrimp are abundant in the waters along the shore, and, during the height of the season, twenty to twenty-five men go to Saint Catherine and Osabaw Sounds, where they camp for several weeks for the purpose of engaging in the fishery. They carry a complete outfit, including seines, cast-nets, boats, and kettles for cooking the shrimp. After cooking and drying the catch of the day, one boat is detailed to carry it to market. The price paid by the Savannah dealers varies from $5 to $1.50 per bushel according to circumstances, $2.50 being a fair average. During the summer of 1879 about 1,400 bushels, valued at $2,500, were landed; but the catch could easily have been increased to many times that quantity had there been a market for them. Of those taken part are sold locally, others go to the interior cities, and the remainder are packed in crates and sent to the Northern markets.

THE LOCAL FRESH-WATER FISHERIES.—The fresh-water fishing is with hook-and-line and trawl in the Savannah River, for 10 miles on either side of the city, and in the Ogeechee River. The bulk of the catch is catfish and rock, though a few fresh-water trout (*Micropterus pallidus*), sun trout (*Chænobryttus gulosus*), spotted trout (*Pomoxys nigromaculatus*), jacks (*Esox americanus*), and several species of bream are taken.

THE SHAD FISHERIES OF GEORGIA.—Savannah has long been an important center for the

shad fisheries, and as early as 1834, according to Captain Larkin, a number of Connecticut fishermen came to the region with gill-nets and took shad for shipment in sail vessels to the North. When the first line of steamers between Savannah and New York was started, the fishing assumed important proportions, and it continued to increase till about 1870, when it reached its height. Since that date it has gradually declined, though at the present time a number of Northerners, with others from the locality, fish regularly in the Savannah, Ogeechee, and Altamaha Rivers, a greater part of the catch going to Savannah. Many of the nets and boats are owned by the city dealers. According to Colonel McDonald the catch for 1879 was 17,500 white shad (*C. sapidissima*) and 7,500 "hicks" (*Clupea mediocris*) for the Savannah; 15,000 white shad and 7,400 hicks for the Ogeechee; and 3,750 white shad and 3,750 hicks for the Altamaha. A detailed account will be given in the chapter on the shad fisheries.

THE WHOLESALE AND RETAIL FISH TRADE OF SAVANNAH.—Savannah, on account of its location, is more important as a distributing center for the Georgia and Florida catch than as a fishing town. Formerly the supply was obtained almost wholly from Charleston, but with the opening of Florida by the railroads large fisheries were established in that State, and Savannah was the natural market for the catch. At the present time the supply comes largely from the rivers of the State, and from various localities in Florida, the principal ones being Cedar Keys, Saint Mark's, and the Saint John's and Indian Rivers.

The principal species of the market are shad, sturgeon, catfish, red-snappers, groupers (*Epinephelus morio* and *E. Drummond-Hayi*), mullet, sheepshead, spotted trout, and crevalle (*Caranx pisquetus*).

There are three firms extensively engaged in the shipment of all kinds of fresh fish, with two others that handle sturgeon exclusively. Some of the marketmen also ship a few barrels to different parts of the State. Formerly no fresh fish, with the exception of shad, were sent beyond the limits of the State, but the trade has gradually increased until Savannah has come to be the largest fish market of the South Atlantic States, and now sends a few fish as far west as Chicago and Saint Louis, while many go to Kentucky, Tennessee, and South Carolina. Owing to the warm weather the business is continued only from October to the middle of May, and few if any fish are sent out in summer.

THE CITY TRADE.—The city retail trade is largely under the control of the marketmen. Ten parties, including the three large dealers, rent stalls and keep a full assortment of both fresh and salt-water species. Several of the smaller firms get their supply direct from Florida and from the fishermen of the locality; but the majority depend wholly upon the wholesale dealers for their salt-water fish. There are also a few negroes who make a business of vending fish through the streets. The number varies considerably according to the season. The average is about nine or ten for the year.

The peculiar feature of the market is the large number of catfish consumed. Saturday is known as catfish day, and many of the local fishermen, who devote their attention to the capture of the species with line, trawl, or trap, keep their catch in cars till Saturday, marketing them on that day only. The catfish are sold chiefly to the negroes, who usually buy them in preference to any other species, both on account of their cheapness and flavor. Fifteen hundred to 2,000 bunches are sometimes sold in a day, and it is estimated that not less than 30,000 bunches are sold yearly, at an average of 15 cents a bunch.

A few hard crabs and clams are sold by negroes from little stands in other parts of the market, but, according to Mr. George Witte, the business is very limited, and the clam trade of Savannah does not exceed 150 to 200 bushels yearly.

STATISTICS OF THE SAVANNAH MARKET IN 1879.—In 1879 the fish-dealers of Savannah handled about 45,000 shad from the various fisheries of the Saint John's, Ogeechee, and Savannah Rivers. In addition, they received 50,000 pounds of red-snappers, 65,000 mullet, and 700,000 pounds of mixed fish from different parts of Florida; and 120,000 strings of mixed fish, 1,400 bushels of shrimp, and 400 dozen terrapin from the coast and rivers of Georgia. According to Colonel McDonald, the amount of sturgeon handled in Savannah during the same season was 312,000 pounds of dressed fish and 42,000 pounds of roe, valued at $24,800. About one-half of the shad were sent to New York, Philadelphia, and Baltimore; and one-fourth of the remainder to the principal cities of Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, and Tennessee. The sturgeon, red-snappers, terrapin, and about one-third of the shrimp go to New York and Philadelphia. The remainder of the catch is sold to the city trade, or sent to the larger cities of Georgia and South Carolina.

186. BRUNSWICK AND ITS FISHERY INTERESTS.

Brunswick is a town of two thousand inhabitants, on one of the branches of Turtle River, about 12 miles from the mouth of Saint Simon's Sound. It has railroad communication with the interior, and the weekly steamers between Savannah and Fernandina touch at its wharves. It has the best shipping facilities of any town on this portion of the coast; its principal trade being in lumber, while cotton and naval stores are handled in considerable quantities.

The waters of the harbor and adjoining river abound in fish and oysters, but no fishing of importance is done. Three gill-nets are fished for trout and other species, between October and May, and the negroes of the vicinity go out occasionally with hand-lines, bringing their catch to Brunswick. In addition, the negroes for miles on either side, especially those of Cumberland Island, catch a good many fish, and, when the price will warrant, they often send them to Brunswick for a market; but the price is usually so low that the fishing is not followed with any regularity. The catch is sold for local consumption or to the railroad men who peddle it out at the various stations along the line of the road.

FISHING AT DARIEN AND SAINT SIMON'S.—The settlement of Darien on the north and of Saint Simon's on the south of Brunswick have also extensive lumber interests, and a large fleet of vessels come regularly to these points and remain for weeks at a time while securing their cargoes. These purchase their supply of fish from the negroes of the locality, and a small business has sprung up in this way. There is also a shad fishery on the Altamaha, near Darien, but the catch is quite small and few are shipped.

WHALING FROM BRUNSWICK BY MASSACHUSETTS VESSELS.—Formerly, and for a number of years, a portion of the New Bedford and Provincetown whaling fleet, while cruising on the "Bahama Grounds" during the fall and winter, made a practice of running into Fernandina, Fla., to ship their cargoes of oil and bone instead of taking the time to carry them home. While in this vicinity they frequently sighted whales and occasionally succeeded in taking some of them. The yellow fever at Fernandina several years ago caused some of the vessels to change their landing place to Brunswick. In the winter of 1875–'76 the schooner Golden Eagle, after landing her cargo, remained in this region to cruise for whales, making Brunswick her headquarters for over two months. During this time she secured one whale. The next year two vessels came to cruise in the same locality and met with fair success. Others followed, and in the winter of 1879–'80 five whalers made Brunswick their headquarters while cruising along the shore, and up to March 1 they had taken five whales, yielding 226 barrels of oil and 2,750 pounds of bone, all of which was shipped to the Massachusetts whaling ports.