THE FISHERMEN OF THE UNITED STATES.

A.—NATIONALITY AND GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS.

1. GENERAL REVIEW.

In 1880 there were 101,684 professional fishermen in the United States. In addition to the professional fishermen there is a large class of men who have been called "semi-professional fishermen," including the men who derive from the fisheries less than half of their entire income.

In the class of shoresmen may be placed (1) the curers and packers of fish; (2) the vessel owners and fitters who furnish supplies and apparatus for the use of the active fishermen; (3) the shopkeepers from whom they purchase provisions and clothing; (4) the skilled laborers who manufacture for them articles of apparel and shelter; (5) the manufacturers of boxes, barrels, refrigerators, and other appliances used in packing and preserving the catch; (6) the vessel and boat builders and artisans who keep the fleet in repair; and (7) the fish dealers and market men. Taking into account all those persons who are directly employed in the fisheries for a greater or less portion of the year, those who are dependent upon the fishermen in a commercial way for support, and the members of their families who depend on their labors, it cannot be extravagant to estimate the total number of persons dependent upon the fisheries of this country at from 800,000 to 1,000,000.

The total value of the fisheries of the United States to the producers in 1880 was $14,546,053, and a fair estimate of the wholesale market value of the products would increase the amount to nearly $90,000,000.

Of the twenty-nine States and Territories whose citizens are engaged in the fishery industry, sixteen have more than a thousand professional fishermen each. The most important of these is Massachusetts, with 17,105 men; second stands Maine, with 8,110; unless, indeed, the 16,000 oystermen of Virginia and the 15,000 of Maryland are allowed to swell the totals for those States. Maine, however, stands second so far as the ocean fisheries proper are concerned.

In geographical areas the Southern Atlantic States rank first in the number of fishermen, with 38,774 men; followed by the New England States, with 29,838; the Middle States, exclusive of the Great Lakes, with 12,584; the Pacific States and Territories, 11,613; the Great Lakes, 4,493; and the Gulf States, 4,382.

The number of professional fishermen in each State and Territory is as follows:

State or Territory.	Number.	State or Territory.	Number.	State or Territory.	Number.
Alabama	545	Maine	8,110	Ohio	925
Alaska	6,000	Maryland	15,873	Oregon	2,785
California	2,089	Massachusetts	17,105	Pennsylvania	511
Connecticut	2,585	Michigan	1,600	Rhode Island	1,602
Delaware	1,662	Minnesota	30	South Carolina	964
Florida	2,284	Mississippi	100	Texas	491
Georgia	809	New Hampshire	378	Virginia	16,051
Illinois	265	New Jersey	5,659	Washington Territory	729
Indiana	45	New York	5,630	Wisconsin	780
Louisiana	1,300	North Carolina	4,729	Total	101,684

The majority of our fishermen are native-born citizens of the United States, although in certain localities there are extensive communities of foreigners, clinging to the traditions of their fatherlands, and conspicuous in the regions where they dwell by reason of their peculiar customs and physiognomies. Most numerous of these are the natives of the British Provinces, of whom there are at least 4,000 employed in the fisheries of New England, Gloucester reporting 1,600, Provincetown 800, New Bedford 800, and smaller numbers in other minor ports of this region.

There are probably not less than 2,000 Portuguese, chiefly natives of the Azores and the Cape de Verde Islands. In the New Bedford whaling fleet there are about 800 of these men; at Provincetown 400, many of them on the whaling vessels; in Gloucester 250, and on the coast of California, 200. Most of the Portuguese have brought their families with them and have built up extensive communities in the towns whence they sail upon their fishing voyages.

There are also about 1,000 Scandinavians, 1,000 or more of Irish and English birth, a considerable number of French, Italian, Austrians, Minorcans, Sclavs, Greeks, Spaniards, and Germans. In the whaling fleet may be found Lascars, Malays, and a larger number of Kanakas, or natives of the various South Sea Islands. In the whale fishery of Southern New England a considerable number of men of partial Indian descent may be found, and in the fisheries of the Great Lakes, especially those of Lake Superior and the vicinity of Mackinaw, Indians and Indian half-breeds are employed.

The salmon and other fisheries of Puget Sound are prosecuted chiefly by the aid of Indian fishermen. In Alaska, where the population depends almost entirely upon the fisheries for support, the head of every family is a professional fisherman. Though upon a very low estimate one-fourth of the inhabitants of Alaska should be considered as fishermen, few of them catch fish for the use of others than their own immediate dependents.

Only one Chinaman has as yet enrolled himself among the fishermen of the Atlantic coast, but in California and Oregon there are about 4,000 of these men, all of whom, excepting about 300, are employed as factory hands in the salmon canneries of the Sacramento and Columbia basins. The 300 who have the right to be classed among the actual fishermen live, for the most part, in California, and the product of their industry is, to a very great extent, exported to China, although they supply the local demands of their countrymen resident on the Pacific coast.

The negro element in the fishing population is somewhat extensive. We have no means of ascertaining how many of this race are included among the native-born Americans returned by the census reporters. The shad fisheries of the South are prosecuted chiefly by the use of negro muscle, and probably not less than 4,000 or 5,000 of these men are employed during the shad and herring season in setting and hauling the seines. The only locality where negroes participate to a large extent in the shore fisheries is Key West, Fla., where the natives of the Bahamas, both negro and white, are considered among the most skillful of the sponge and market fishermen. Negroes are rarely found, however, upon the sea-going fishing vessels of the North. There is not a single negro among the 5,000 fishermen of Gloucester, Mass., and their absence from the fishing vessels of other New England ports is none the less noteworthy. There is, however, a considerable sprinkling of negroes among the crews of the whaling vessels of Provincetown and New Bedford. New Bedford alone reports over two hundred negroes: these men are, for the most part, natives of Jamaica, St. Croix, and other of the West India islands, and also of the Cape de Verde Islands, where American whaling vessels engaging in the Atlantic fishery are accustomed to make harbor for recruiting and enrolling their crews.

As a counterpart to the solitary Chinaman engaged in the Atlantic fisheries, we hear of a solitary negro on the Pacific coast, a lone fisherman, who sits on the wharf at New Tacoma, Washington Territory, and fishes to supply the local market.

The number of foreign fishermen in the United States, excluding the 5,000 negroes and the 8,000 Indians and Eskimos, who are considered to be native-born citizens, probably does not exceed 10 to 12 per cent. of the total number.

As is shown by the figures given above, considerably more than one-half of the fishing population of the United States, excluding the oystermen of Virginia and Maryland, belongs to the Atlantic coast north of the Capes of Delaware. Of this number, at least four-fifths, or 40,000, are of English descent. They are by far the most interesting of our fishermen, since to their numbers belong the 20,000 or more men who may properly be designated the "sailor fishermen" of the United States, the crews of the trim and beautiful vessels of the sea-going fishing-fleet, which should be the chief pride of the American marine, and which is of such importance to our country as a training school for mariners, and as a medium through which one of the most valuable food resources of the continent is made available.

The fishing population of Maine, Massachusetts, and Connecticut is composed, for the most part, especially in the country districts, of native-born Americans. In the large fishing ports there is, however, an extensive admixture of foreigners, among whom the natives of the British Provinces, chiefly Nova Scotians and Newfoundlanders, are largely in the majority. The Beverly bankers are manned to a large extent by Nova Scotians, who are shipped at the beginning of the summer by the vessels which proceed for that purpose to the seaport towns of that Province. The Plymouth fleet, before 1861, was manned almost wholly by Americans, then for some years chiefly by Nova Scotians, now almost entirely by Americans. Part of the crews and several of the captains of the Bucksport fishing vessels are Provincials, and there is a limited number of these men, principally from New Brunswick, engaged in the shore and vessel fisheries of Eastport. In addition to these, there are many Provincial fishermen at different points along the coast of Maine.

Gloucester has 140 men of British birth, a large proportion of whom are Irish, while the Boston market fleet is manned principally by Irishmen.

Gloucester has nearly 400 Scandinavians among its fishermen and about 70 Frenchmen. The New Bedford whaling fleet, with its motley gathering of sailors from every port of the world, has individuals of nearly every race. In 1880 the crews of this fleet were composed as follows: 900 Americans; 800 Portuguese; 250 English and Irish; 200 British-Provincials; 200 Germans; 200 South Sea Islanders or Kanakas; 200 Negroes; 50 French, and 50 Swedes.

In general traits of character fishermen cannot be distinguished from the population on shore. In some special branches of the fisheries, as the boat fisheries of Maine, the men live a comparatively secluded life, and acquire, after many years, a bearing and physiognomy peculiar to themselves.

The enterprise of New England fishermen is well known. They are not conservative, but eager to adopt inventions and discoveries that may promise to benefit them in their work. This trait is manifest in the readiness with which they have adopted the purse-seines in place of the hook and line in the capture of mackerel; and, again, in their readiness to experiment with and then to adopt gill-nets in the shore fisheries for the capture of cod.

They are a hardy and daring race of men, particularly in New England. Their powers of endurance and their skill are noteworthy. The highest type of seamanship is attained among American fishermen. The whalemen of Nantucket and New Bedford have pursued their prey in all oceans, and have added greatly to the geographical knowledge of the world.

In general education the inhabitants of the fishing towns of New England are among the most

intelligent. The Plymouth colonists, soon after their arrival, set apart by law a portion of the revenue arising from the sale of fishing licenses for the support of public schools.

The schools of New England fishing towns are attended by the boys until they are old enough to go to sea, and by the girls until they are of a marriageable age. It is quite usual for boys to engage in fishing in summer and go to school in the winter; some do this until they have arrived at the age of manhood. The girls are generally better educated than the boys, and the intelligence and refinement of the women of the fishing towns seem to a stranger quite noteworthy. The excellent education of wives and mothers of the fishermen cannot be without important effects upon the intelligence of the class.

The people of most of the fishing villages, from the Bay of Fundy to New York, are generally as intelligent and refined as in the average agricultural and manufacturing communities of the adjoining interior.

The fishermen of the Southern States are not remarkable for their intelligence; in fact, the thousands of oyster dredgers of the Chesapeake Bay are by reputation a degraded class. Their very lawlessness is supposed to recommend them to the service. The oyster-tongers in the same region are of a higher class, yet indolent and improvident. By law of the State of Maryland the revenue from the sale of oyster-tonging licenses, amounting annually to about $20,000, is given to the public school commissioners, who apply it to the support of schools, license-money from colored oystermen being for the support of colored schools, and from white oystermen for white schools.

TRAITS AND CUSTOMS OF NEW ENGLAND FISHERMEN.—The system of discipline upon a New England fishing schooner is such that it requires extraordinary tact and judgment on the part of the commanding officer. The captain or skipper is the sole officer, and, except when he has some order to give in relation to sailing the vessel or catching fish, he has no special authority over the crew, and the respect with which he is treated by the men is only that which his personal character obtains for him. This system of officering the vessels is attended by many serious disadvantages, and it would be a great benefit to our fisheries if the crews could be organized more in accordance with the usage of the merchant marine.

The peculiar dialect of the fishermen affords opportunity for studies of great interest. Of course their language is not free from a considerable amount of slang and technical phrases peculiar to their profession. Many of their words were brought to this country by their ancestors two hundred years ago, and, although at that time common throughout England, have now become obsolete or are regarded as provincialisms. On many parts of the coast a very pure idiomatic English is spoken. The peculiar words which one constantly hears add force and interest to their conversations.

Although the sailor fishermen of New England are not as a class religious, in most of the smaller fishing towns a high tone of morality prevails. Profane language is almost universally prevalent, but in other respects moralists would in general find little to criticise. In very many places the skipper of a vessel loses caste if it is known that he allows his crew to fish on Sunday, and for two consecutive years the Menhaden Oil and Guano Association have passed resolutions forbidding their employés to fish upon the Sabbath. In the early part of the present century a barrel of rum was an indispensable article in the outfit of a fishing vessel; at present it is extremely rare for ardent spirits of any kind to be found on board of the vessels, and popular sentiment is greatly against its use. Most of the fishing ports along the coast have prohibitory laws, which are rigidly enforced.

Bearing in mind the difficulties met by fishermen in obtaining supplies of reading matter, the quantity and quality of their literature is somewhat remarkable. Hundreds of copies of such

papers as the New York Weekly, Saturday Night, Fireside Companion, New York Ledger, Harper's Weekly, and Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper are bought weekly by the fishermen of Gloucester. On their vessels a number of volumes may always be found; Dickens, Shakespeare, Byron, and Abbott's Life of Napoleon being among the most popular works.

The food of the New England fishermen is usually of an excellent quality, and to this improvement during the past quarter of a century may be attributed the increase in the longevity and period of active service among these men; this is so noteworthy as to attract the attention of all observers. The cook is often better paid than the captain, and is, in fact, the most important member of the crew.

Diseases are comparatively rare, the most prevalent being dyspepsia and rheumatism. In the larger ports, where there is much competition, cases of nervous exhaustion are by no means infrequent among the skippers and the most ambitious fishermen. Vessels carry a plentiful supply of medicines, and some of the skippers are quite expert in the application of certain simple remedies.

Ports which, like Gloucester, engage in the winter fisheries, have their fishing population decimated every year or two by severe disasters, but the fishermen do not feel any hesitation in going to sea, never admitting that the disasters which have befallen their comrades can affect themselves.

To describe the routine of life on board of a fishing vessel would be interesting, since it is very unlike that of other men, even mariners of other classes. Three months or more spent on a vessel anchored in its solitary berth on the banks, hundreds of miles from the land, is an experience which necessarily develops many peculiar habits among those who follow such a life. From daybreak until dark they ply their lines from the deck or from little boats, and half of the night is often devoted to preserving the fish which have been caught during the day. Storms are constantly occurring, and the dangers to which these men are exposed are numerous and severe.

A system of mutual insurance, or rather provision for the welfare of their families, is practiced by the fishermen of Gloucester by which a certain percentage of each man's earnings is set aside, to be applied for the benefit of the wives and children of those who have been lost at sea. The financial profits of the fishermen are extremely uncertain. A common fisherman may make $1,000 a year or may find himself at the end of twelve months deeply in debt for the supplies which have been advanced to his family by the shopkeepers during his absence. In 1859 the average yield to the fishermen of Marblehead was $50 each, and in other years the profits have been even less. In some rare instances Gloucester skippers, who were owners of vessels, have made $10,000 to $15,000 a year.

One of the most interesting topics developed by the study of fishermen is that of their superstitions. The most common of these is that relating to "Jonahs." Certain articles of apparel, such as a black traveling-bag or a pair of blue mittens or stockings are thought to be sure to bring ill luck. Some fishermen think it "a Jonah" to leave a bucket half full of water on deck, to drive a nail on Sunday, to keep the deck clean, or to break a looking-glass. Superstitious usages are very little prevalent; the practice of wearing ear-rings, so common among other mariners and believed to be beneficial to the sight, is rarely met with.

Certain curious customs might be referred to, but these are usually carried out in a joking manner. The fisherman who nails a horseshoe on the end of his bowsprit has usually no more faith in its supernatural power than the young lady who hangs it over the door of her parlor.

2. THE SHORE FISHERMEN OF MAINE.

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS.—The men who are engaged in the shore fisheries of Maine are almost wholly of American birth. The majority of them have been brought up from their boyhood to a life on the water. Because of the decline of the coasting business in which their fathers, to a great extent, were employed before them, many of them have engaged in this particular branch of the fisheries as the only opportunity left them of making a living from the products of the sea.

HARDIHOOD.—Judging from the exposure to which these fishermen are frequently subjected, and the absence of ill effects upon their health by reason of such exposures, it may safely be said that they are a hardy class of men; perhaps not as daring and vigorous, however, as are the men engaged in deep sea fishing and who are often absent from shore for weeks and months together. The shore fishermen are frequently compelled to spend the night in their little open boats waiting for the turn of the tide or for a favorable wind.

SUBMISSION TO DIFFICULTIES.—These fishermen are chronic grumblers, and not altogether without reason. The terrible scarcity of bait, particularly annoying when good fishing is reported by the more fortunate—combined with the miserable prices they sometimes obtain for their fish, is not calculated to make a man jubilant or arouse dormant energies, if such exist. Each is largely dependent upon his "buyer," who, according to the state of the market, or for other reasons, may direct the fishermen either to go fishing next morning or stay at home. If he goes contrary to the advice of his patron he has a very poor chance of receiving from him any sum for his fish which will compensate the loss of time and labor. The wish to accumulate means is therefore absent by reason of its impossibility, and the time devoted to fishing is only so much as will provide himself and family with something to eat and wear. Some of these fishermen, however, are enterprising and industrious, and profiting by the inactivity of their fellows they acquire a fair competence.

It can hardly be said that the "chronic grumbler" is lazy, for when searching for bait or traveling to or from the grounds he will row a large boat several miles and think nothing of it. This apparent contradiction in his nature is due to his inability to change the existing state of affairs or to earn a livelihood in any other way: thus hardship and privations are calmly submitted to as a matter of course.

LACK OF ENTERPRISE.—Money seems to have but small powers of attraction when offered to these fishermen for work not connected with fishing. A member of our staff, who visited the coast in 1880, found considerable trouble in securing the services of some one who was willing to row him from place to place, and thereby earn good wages, though many of them were doing nothing. A larger return than common from selling fish is usually spent as fancy may first dictate or serves as a reason for deferring, as long as possible, the next fishing expedition.

MARRIAGE AND HOME LIFE.—Most of these men marry at an early age, generally from eighteen to twenty years: they thus become responsible for the support of a family almost before arriving at manhood.

The houses occupied by the families of these Maine shore-fishermen are usually old-fashioned wooden buildings, one and a half stories high; in some cases neat and home-like in appearance, but more generally lacking in taste and order. Most of these houses are surrounded by a "patch" of ground from three quarters of an acre to three or four acres in area, which, if properly attended to on the days unpropitious for fishing, might provide largely toward the support of the family, but negligence characterizes the appearance of many and weeds flourish undisturbed. The families subsist, for the most part, upon the products of the sea—fish, lobsters, and clams—and upon the vegetables from their gardens.

Camp of shore fishermen near Cape Newagen, Maine.

Drawing by Capt. J. W. Collins.

When at home the fisherman of this class passes most of his time in lounging about with his companions, relating personal adventures and talking superficially over the outlook. Not possessing a "business head," he does not carry these speculations further than to "hope for better luck." The same time spent in hunting for bait, scarce as it is, might better serve to realize his hopes. He may, despite his failings, be considered as honest, good-hearted, and contented with his lot, or perhaps we may better express it, resigned to fate.

EDUCATION.—Education is not in an advanced state. There are schools in almost all of the fishing towns, where winter and summer sessions are held, attended by the young of both sexes. The boys are taken away permanently from school as soon as they are considered useful, leaving the inference a fair one that the girls are better educated when they leave school than the boys. The means of supplying food for the boys' minds being so limited it is not strange that their heads are undisturbed by constant planning of great schemes having for their end the accumulation of wealth.

FINANCIAL CONDITION.—The fishermen of the present time have lost the privilege of obtaining on credit articles of food, &c., from the storekeepers, who, on account of the tendency on the part of the former to avoid the payment of their bills, have in the past lost heavily. Formerly the fishermen were good customers, buying extensively and making exertions to fulfill their obligations.

A fair average return per annum to the fisherman, since 1875, when bait began to be scarce and the price of fish to diminish, is estimated at $175; in 1879, however, the majority did not realize $100 apiece.

FISHERMEN AT GEORGETOWN.—The shore-fishermen of the Kennebec side of Georgetown are mostly engaged in pound fishing, but a few are interested in boat fishing for cod, haddock, hake, and pollock. They are almost wholly dependent for their support upon the money obtained by the sale of their fish. In summer, however, a few weeks are spent in picking and shipping berries, and in digging clams or cutting ice in winter. They do not engage in any one particular kind of fishing, but turn their attention to that which they believe to be the most profitable at the time. Some of these men always return at night; others, known as "campers," start in the spring with a small stove, blankets, and some cooking utensils, staying away until some necessity compels them to leave for home. The returns earned in this way used to equal the average returns of the deep-sea fishermen, but for the past three or four years the case has been very different.

BOAT-FISHERMEN OF PORTLAND.—The boat-fishermen of Portland live, for the most part, on the islands in the vicinity of the city and at Cape Elizabeth, both for economy and for convenience in getting to and from the fishing grounds. This class represents the better element, being very largely composed of married men, who prefer to undergo lonesome hardship in their little boats remaining near home to being separated from those dear to them in large vessels for a long time. It is estimated that the married boat-fishermen of Portland number one hundred and ten, and that they possess an average of about three children each.

3. THE VESSEL-FISHERMEN OF MAINE.

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS.—The fishing vessels of Maine are largely manned by men of American birth, most of them natives of this State, who have followed the fisheries from their youth. Their habits of life are in many respects the same as those of the shore-fishermen. They have, as a class, all the enterprise and daring of the fishermen at the larger ports in Massachusetts. They are, however, more conservative and contented, and do not care to risk the great dangers attending the winter fisheries on the Banks, preferring rather to follow the fisheries during the summer months, and to remain idle or engage in other pursuits during the winter. Many of them, however, follow the shore fisheries in winter and the vessel fisheries in summer.

The reason why the Maine fishermen do not engage in the offshore winter fisheries can probably be found in the fact that they have not the system of mutual insurance which prevails in Gloucester. The probability of vessels being lost on winter trips is so great that few individuals or firms care to incur the risk without insurance; and the cost of insuring in stock companies is too high to leave any profits. It is, therefore, seemingly a question of the profitable employment of capital, and not a lack of courage or enterprise in the fishermen, that has commonly prevented the winter fisheries from being extensively prosecuted from Maine.

In substantiation of this statement, it can be said that a large percentage of the most daring and efficient fishermen sailing from Gloucester are natives of Maine. In the sharp competition which exists among the fishermen of this port, those from Maine hold a prominent place and are second to none in bravery, hardihood, and seamanship—qualities which are pre-eminently required in the winter fisheries.

The following notes, communicated to Mr. Earll by a close observer, for many years living in one of the principal fishing ports of Maine, indicate the habits and traits of those fishermen at some of the fishing ports of this State:

"EARLY TRAINING.—A man about to ship in a vessel will make arrangements to take his boy with him. The boy is taken out at the age of ten to twelve years. At first he may be kept aboard the vessel cutting sounds and fishing over the rail, or he may be allowed to accompany his father in his dory; and then he adds to the father's catch. He returns in the fall and again enters school for the winter term, but is taken out again early in spring to go on another trip. By the time he is fifteen, or sixteen at most, he has a dory of his own and forms one of the crew, catching his share of the trip. With his boyish desire to be a man he readily takes to any vice common to others of the crew, and is soon led to be as rough as any of his companions. His chief aim now is to be a fisherman and to be with the fishermen, and he returns in the fall feeling that he is too old for school, and if he enters it is largely that he may have a good time. He now wishes to study only geography and arithmetic, thinks reading and spelling beneath him, while, to use his own language, 'grammar will do well enough for the biled-shirt fellers and the girls, but as for him he has no time for such trash.' The only way now to reach him is by a general black-board exercise and course of oral instruction in those branches against which he is prejudiced. This is being introduced with favorable results, but the average fisher-boy takes so little interest in schools after he has been away for two or three summers that he will improve but little. The fisherman's daughter fares better, for there is little to keep her busy outside of school, and she, if once interested in the work, has the chance of gratifying her desires beyond that of any other class. As a result we find her often a very bright and intellectual young girl where the school privileges will allow and where she is not kept back by the home influences.

"MARRIED LIFE.—When the fisherman marries he soon has a large family, varying with the locality, the inferior communities averaging more than the more intellectual and well-to-do ones. In one section of twenty families, taken in order as they chanced to live, the average was exactly 5, the extremes being 11 and 0. The hard times seem to have no influence upon either the marriage or birth rate, for in 1878, the culmination of a series of adverse years, there were more marriages than for any year since 1874 by considerable, and the birth rate was unusually large.*

* HERRINGS AND MARRIAGES.—"The connection between herrings and marriages may not be obvious to all, but the Scotch registers make it clear enough. In the returns for the third quarter of the present year (1871) the registrar of Fraserburgh states that the herring fishery was very successful, and the value of the catch, including casks and curing, may be set down at £130,000 sterling, and the marriages were 80 per cent. above the average. One registrar, in his return for the quarter, reports marriages in his district 'like angels' visits, few and far between.' At the fishing villages it may be put more briefly—no herring, no wedding."

"LITERARY TASTES; ASSOCIATIONS.—The fisherman reads but little, in fact almost nothing in the way of books, and confines himself almost wholly to story papers, though no one paper seems to have a preference.

"*The seaman, be he fisherman or not, has, from long and constant association with his fellows,* grown to be a man who is discontented in solitude. He has been so long and constantly in the company of others that he cannot endure being alone; and just here we find a partial explanation of his discontent with the ordinary shore life. When at home in winter he is not satisfied to remain by himself; he must have other men around him, and we see him congregating with others at an old wharf where they may while away the time in jesting together and in conversation about things pertaining to their vocation. If one is going to the village half a mile away he will wait an hour for the sake of having some one to walk down with, and, conversing only on subjects connected with his work, he gradually comes to enjoy himself only in the society of fishermen. Who *has not overheard a conversation between two old salts and observed how easily it drifted into* things connected with the sea and how persistently it clung there?

"HOME LIFE.—The man being away so much his wife learns to act as his agent, and generally being the more capable of the two she controls matters at home, and he comes often in the capacity of a boarder. Her word is considered better than his, and she is not infrequently the leader. He neglects work about the house at the proper time and cuts his wood in the snow, &c. During the hard times he has mortgaged his house, and often two families live together with little or nothing attractive about them."

4. THE FISHERMEN OF THE ISLES OF SHOALS.

THE ISLES OF SHOALS FISHERMEN IN 1873.—Concerning the fishermen of these islands off the coast of New Hampshire, Celia Thaxter, in 1873, wrote:

"They lead a life of the greatest hardship and exposure, during the winter especially, setting their trawls 15 or 20 miles to the eastward of the islands, drawing them next day if the stormy winds and waves will permit, and taking the fish to Portsmouth to sell. It is desperately hard work, trawling at this season, with the bitter wind blowing in their teeth and the flying spray freezing upon everything it touches—boats, masts, sails, decks, clothes *completely cased in ice, and* fish frozen solid as soon as taken from the water. The inborn politeness of these fishermen to stranger women is *something* delightful to witness. I remember once landing in Portsmouth and being obliged to cross three or four schooners just in (with their freight of frozen fish lying open-mouthed in a solid mass on deck) to reach the wharf. No courtly gentlemen could have displayed more beautiful behavior than did these rough fellows, all pressing forward with real grace—because the feeling which prompted them was a true and lofty feeling—to help me over the tangle of ropes and sails and anchors to a safe footing on shore.

"Very few accidents happen, however: the islanders are a cautious people. Years ago, when the white sails of their little fleet of whale-boats used to *flutter out of the sheltered bight and stand* out to the fishing grounds in the bay, how many eyes followed them in the early light and watched *them in the distance through the day, till, toward sunset,* they spread their wings to fly back with the evening wind! How pathetic the gathering of women on the headlands when out of the sky swept the squall that sent the small boats staggering before it and blinded the eyes, already drowned in tears, with sudden rain that hid sky and sea and boats from their eager gaze! What wringing of hands, what despairing cries, which the wild wind bore away while it caught and fluttered the homely draperies and unfastened the locks of maid and mother to blow them about their pale faces and anxious eyes! Now no longer the little fleet goes forth, for the greater part of the

islanders have stout schooners, and go trawling with profit, if not with pleasure. A few solitaries fish in small dories, and earn a slender livelihood thereby.

"Most of the men are more or less round-shouldered, and seldom row upright, with head erect and shoulders thrown back. They stoop so much over the fish-tables—cleaning, splitting, salting, packing—that they acquire a permanent habit of stooping."*

5. THE INDIAN FISHERMEN OF NEW ENGLAND.

THE INDIANS OF PASSAMAQUODDY BAY.—The Passamaquoddy Indians in the neighborhood of Eastport, Me., are engaged in various fisheries, the chief object of pursuit being the porpoise, which is taken for its oil. The pursuit is an exciting one, the Indians in their slender birch-bark canoes approaching to within gun-shot, when the animal is killed, and afterward secured with a lance, and either towed to land or taken into the boat.

INDIANS OF SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND.—The Indians of Gay Head, a well-known settlement at the western end of Martha's Vineyard, and of other points on the south coast of New England, have in days past been famous whalemen, and were often found filling the position of boat-steerer, particularly on the New Bedford ships.

6. THE BRITISH-PROVINCIAL FISHERMEN OF NEW ENGLAND.

There were in 1880 about 4,000 men, natives of the British Provinces, employed on our fishing vessels. They are, as a rule, natives of Nova Scotia, though there are many from Cape Breton and Prince Edward Island, and a considerable number from other parts of Canada and from Newfoundland. The Nova Scotians are, for the most part, of Scotch descent, while the Newfoundlanders are Irish. Many from Nova Scotia and Cape Breton have a share of French blood in their veins. They are all known by the general name "Nova Scotians."

SEAMANSHIP.—A great many of the most skillful fishermen and skippers are from the vicinity of Pubnico, Lockport, Le Have, and Lunenburg, Nova Scotia. These men have an hereditary knowledge of maritime subjects, for there has for a long time been a considerable fleet of bankers owned in that Province. Many other excellent men come from other parts of Nova Scotia, Cape Breton, and Prince Edward Island.

IMMIGRATION.—According to Capt. Epes W. Merchant, of Gloucester, the first Nova Scotian came to that port about the year 1828, on the fishing schooner commanded by Capt. Elisha Oakes. As will be shown hereafter, the practice of enlisting Newfoundlanders was common as early as 1648, and has doubtless continued ever since to greater or less extent

Capt. Fitz J. Babson, the collector of customs at Gloucester, in a letter to the Chief of the Bureau of Statistics in 1875, says:

"For some years there has been a large immigration of male adults coming from the Provinces to engage in the fisheries of Gloucester. They are mostly young men and unmarried. The superior class of vessels belonging to this port employed in the fisheries, the liberal and excellent quality of provisions furnished by the owners, the prompt settlement and payment in cash for the fares obtained instead of payment in goods, &c., which is the usual manner of payment to fishermen at other places, the rapid promotion to the command of a fine schooner consequent upon skill and success, all conspire to draw the ambitious young seamen from the Provinces.

"These immigrants make up to a large degree the crews of our fishing vessels, and hence the loss of life falls principally upon them. If the loss of life were confined to the native population of the town, Gloucester could not long maintain the fishing business.

* Thaxter's Isles of Shoals, 1873, p. 74.

"The capital of the Provinces finds better investment in building, equipping, and running vessels in the foreign trade than in the fishing business. Most of the fishing of the Provinces is pursued in small boats off shore. Many fishermen of the Provinces do not have sufficient capital to build and equip vessels to carry on the fishing business as it is done here. Persons wishing to engage in the fisheries usually apply first at Gloucester. Of the seven thousand men employed in the fisheries at this port three-fourths are not natives of the town, and this season the Provincial fishermen have come direct in vessels to Gloucester rather than by cars, or via Boston and other ports. Very few of these persons return to the Provinces to make their home there again."

Many young women come from the Provinces to the States on the American fishing vessels, in parties of from two to six or more. The passage is generally given to them free, and they are kindly and respectfully treated. Many come as passengers on the same vessels with their husbands or brothers. Large numbers come every year to Gloucester to seek employment, and many of them ultimately marry their countrymen among the fishermen.

THE CAUSES OF IMMIGRATION.—The causes of this immigration may be found primarily in the poverty of many of the coast districts of that Province. In certain of these coast districts the people are to a large extent dependent upon the summer visits of American fishermen. In the winter of 1867 and 1868, for instance, the suffering for want of food among the Nova Scotian fishermen is represented to have been very intense. Government aid and the charity of individuals were insufficient for its relief.*

Another inducement to the enterprising young Provincials is the opportunity for rapid advancement which may be found in a large American fishing port. A man of energy and courage may in a very few years become the skipper of a fine schooner, and be earning a good subsistence for his family, who, had he remained at home, would still have been plying his oars and line in the monotonous, profitless shore fishery.

"Among the Nova Scotians," writes Mr. George H. Procter, "may be found some of the smartest skippers of the fleet. These have made good use of the opportunities presented, and by their good qualities as seamen, capacity to handle a vessel, and possessed with sufficient daring to run the risks of winter fishing, they have attained good positions. Many of them, who came here with scarcely a dollar in their pockets, are now owners, or part owners, of vessels, showing an energetic spirit of industry and perseverance, which has surmounted difficulties and brought, as a reward of their toil, good returns.

"These men, as a class, are naturally fitted for the business. Born and reared by the sea, most of them of poor parents, it became a necessity for them to earn their own living at a very early age. Fishing was about the only occupation in which they could engage in the Provinces, and in this branch they commenced, bringing to it all the energies of youth, and by its pursuit laying the foundation of robust health, which enabled them to bear the toil it demanded, and preparing them for the more advanced positions which were offered on board the American fishing vessels.

"The yearly visits of our fishing fleet into the Provincial waters show these men the contrast between the two classes of vessels, American and Nova Scotian; the one, clipper-built and well appointed in every particular, and the other, clumsy and far behind in all the modern improvements and fittings. It is not strange that they had a desire to connect themselves with the better class of vessels, where opportunities for becoming masters and owners were so temptingly held out as the reward of industry, fidelity, and daring to venture for a trip of fish at the most dangerous and inclement seasons of the year. They caught the inspiration of the Yankee fishermen, as they

* Barnstable Patriot, March 24, 1868—[with many interesting details].

associated with them in their summer visits after mackerel, and learned of the winter fishing on Georges and the Banks; of the chances to make profitable trips; the opportunities to get ahead in the States; and the advantages for their children to obtain an education. They also learned how well the vessels were provisioned. All this led them to seek for chances on board our vessels, and we have drawn from the Provinces hundreds of their population, representing all grades, with a good proportion of really valuable men, who to-day are numbered among the energetic and thriving citizens of Gloucester."

Again, the system of oppression, to which the fishermen of many parts of Nova Scotia are subjected by the fishery capitalists, has had a very important influence in inducing them to seek other homes.

CANADIAN FISHERMEN AT HOME.—Napoleon Lavoie, esq., a Canadian fishery officer, in his report made in 1875 upon the Gaspé and Bonaventure divisions on the Gulf of Saint Lawrence, gives the following account of the condition of the population in that region, which explains in part the causes of the extensive immigration:

"Changes are so few and the rate of progress so slow on the extent of coast placed under my charge, that it is a very difficult thing to present my annual report under a new dress and to suggest matters which have not already been a frequent subject of allusion. There are, however, certain things which require urgent action and which demand continuous public attention. If the large divisions of Gaspé and Bonaventure, with the exceptional advantages presented by reason of their location on the rich shores of Bay des Chaleurs, have only a population of 30,000 souls, most of them neglectful of agricultural pursuits, such a slow rate of progress must be attributed to causes which I have in several instances already brought under your notice, and to which I must again call your attention.

"The actual settlement of the coast of Gaspé and Bay des Chaleurs hardly dates one hundred years back. Scarcely had it begun when powerful firms repaired thither from the Island of Jersey to take advantage of the labor and resources of the growing population. The ignorance and improvidence of the settlers, which repeated experience has not yet cured, unfortunately made them easy tools to the cunning and cupidity of merchants, who took advantage of their own supremacy to keep them in a state of comparative bondage. The policy adopted by the founder of one of these firms, that of Robin & Co., could possibly bring no other results than those witnessed at the present time. This far-seeing man understood at once that in order to keep these people under his power they should be prevented as much as possible from following agricultural pursuits, which would have insured a certain amount of independence. He therefore became purchaser of the seigniories of Pabos and Grand River, and subsequently deeded this land to the people at the rate of ten acres each. In spite, however, of the endeavors made to keep settlers tied to their fishing boats the soil is so fertile and the climate so favorable to agricultural pursuits that remarkable progress has been noticed in late years. The returns, however, of the last four or five years show that agricultural products have had a tendency to decline rather than to increase, although there has been no decrease in the population. It must not be lost sight of that public works, lumbering operations, railways, salmon and lobster canning establishments employed a large number of hands, which thus were lost to agriculture. On the other side the want of markets for the sale of farm produce is a further impediment to the progress of agriculture, the only purchasers being the Jersey merchants, who buy at low prices in order to supply fishermen. Even farmers themselves dare not sell on credit, as they would be sure to lose the amount of their debt, the merchants compelling fishermen to give them all their fish.

"Another reason why agricultural pursuits are more neglected now than they used to be is the

bad system of engaging fishermen. Up to five or six years past the majority of this class hired themselves only until the 15th of August, for what was called summer fishing, the proceeds of which went altogether to merchants in payment of accounts. On the 15th of August, let the bills be settled or not, fishermen began working for themselves, and were thus enabled to purchase their winter provisions wherever they liked, the fish being usually sent to Quebec. Thus they eked out a living, and, working at home, were enabled to cultivate a little plot of ground, which yielded a small return for their industry. The Robins, however, soon found out that this system made the fishermen a little too independent, and anticipating a chance of tightening the bonds under which they were kept, gradually changed their mode of engagement to another, which the improvident and too confiding fishermen adopted without paying sufficient attention to its effect. The mode of engagement now followed on the coast of Gaspé is the half-time system. Most of the fishermen are sent to the large establishments of Percé, Newport, Pabos, and of the North Coast, to fish there until the end of August or September, so that when the fishing is over there is hardly anything left for them to do. The weather is apt to be so stormy at this period of the year that weeks may elapse before they are enabled to fish, and there is no occupation for them on shore.

"This system, which at first sight may seem advantageous, is nevertheless disastrous to the fishermen, as it prevents them from cultivating their small plots of land, and compels them to procure everything from merchants, who are thus enabled to take advantage of the position in which they are placed. This system is still more prejudicial in so far as it increases the exports of Jersey firms, thereby diminishing the supply on our markets and enhancing the price of codfish. It is also, as may be easily understood, ruinous to the coasting trade.

"There is no need to repeat here what I wrote last year about these firms, their mode of trading, and their narrow and ambitious views. What I then said and what I write to-day will, I venture to say, be sufficient to enable you to understand the position of a large and wealthy portion of our Dominion, the situation in which is placed a whole population reduced to an undisguised state of vassalage, the want of resources and education affording them no means of resisting this oppression. It is certainly not useless on my part to try once more to urge your solicitude towards this unfortunate class of our own people, whose position is an anomaly of the age in which we live."*

In the winter of 1861–'62 there was great destitution and suffering among the Newfoundland fishermen, particularly those living about Placentia Bay, owing chiefly to the poor fishing in the summer of 1861.†

TRANSIENT FISHERMEN.—A great many fishermen are every year shipped by American vessels in the Provincial seaports, and a considerable proportion of these men, though yearly making up a part of the crews of our fishing fleet, never became residents of the United States.‡

THE FISHERMEN OF NEWFOUNDLAND.—The following account of the Newfoundland fishermen gives an idea of their peculiarities, most of which are retained by the men of that region who enter the American fishing fleets:

"The speech of the Newfoundland fisherman is full of phrases derived from his every-day employments. To make an engagement for a term of service is to 'ship' with Mr. So-and-so. Even servant girls are said to 'ship for six months' when they engage with a mistress. A young man 'ships' himself to a sweetheart when they are affianced; and a church is said to have 'shipped' a

* Report of Commissioner of Fisheries of Canada for 1875, pp. 39, 40.

† Cape Ann Advertiser, January 24, 1862.

‡ The Gloucester Telegraph of June 8, 1870, remarks: "Our correspondent at Port Hastings, Cape Breton, sends us the following fishing items: Schooner Yazoo, of Provincetown, Captain Morrison, arrived here May 21; took men and supplies and sailed north on a fishing voyage 27th. Schooner Julian, of Provincetown, Captain Donlin, arrived 21st and took men and supplies for a fishing voyage to Grand Bank. Schooner Oriola, of Provincetown, Captain Donlin, arrived 21st and took men and supplies for a fishing voyage to Grand Bank."

new parson, or perhaps he is called the 'skipper' of the church. The master of the house, whatever his occupation, is invariably 'the skipper,' and the mistress is 'the woman.' 'How's the woman?' is the usual way in which a man is asked regarding the health of his wife. Gaining an advantage over a man is called 'getting to windward of him.' 'Mr. Blank is a terrible knowin' man; there's no gettin' to windward of him.' Is a man prosperous, he is said to be making 'headway'; if the reverse, he is 'going to leeward.' To initiate any undertaking is described as 'getting it under way'; and to live meanly and parsimoniously is to 'go very near the wind.' There is a world of meaning in the Newfoundland proverb, 'the big fish eat the little ones.' Thus pithily and with a sort of mournful cynicism do they at times describe their own forlorn condition at the end of a fishing season, when, in payment of their debts, the whole proceeds of their toil go to the store of the wealthy merchant, while they are half starving during winter.

"Of profitless talk, it is said in reproof, 'words fill no nets.' A dull, plodding man, who succeeds in spite of deficiency by honest industry, is said to 'get on by dint of stupidity and hard work'—a most expressive description.

"Another peculiarity of the Newfoundland fishermen, derived from their sea-faring habits, is an inordinate fondness for flags. Every merchant has his flag flying on his storehouse or wharf, as though a state of active warfare existed, while at the principal harbors the approach of each vessel is signaled by a flag, be it schooner, brig, brigantine, or ship. On Signal Hill, overlooking Saint John's Harbor, three masts are erected, and at times, when a number of vessels are approaching the port, these, with their yards, look like a draper's shop, with the various flags streaming in the wind. Flags, however, are utilized in other ways. When any important personage has 'crossed the bourne whence no traveler returns,' the flags are hoisted half-mast; but when a wedding takes place, all the bunting in the place floats in the breeze. Big 'sealing guns' [used in shooting seals on the ice], whose report is like that of small cannon, are brought out and fired continuously, and evidently afford the greatest delight on these joyous occasions. In the 'outports,' as all places but Saint John's are named, it is usual to catch the happy couple in a net as they emerge from a church—a symbolic net, perhaps—indicating that both are netted for life. In these 'outports,' too, church bells are few and far between, and the time for each service is indicated by hoisting on a pole a flag, on which is emblazoned the miter or the cross. Each school-house, too, has its flagstaff, and when the flag is hoisted the urchins are seen coming along the paths, 'creeping like snails unwillingly to school.'

"Near the shores Newfoundland is rocky, the ground being everywhere covered with stones of all sizes. The word 'stone,' however, is rarely used, the smallest pebble and the largest bowlder being alike called a 'rock.' Boys invariably speak of 'firing rocks,' but never of throwing stones. A servant was asked how she had been spending her time lately. Her reply, 'Why, I have been heavin' rocks out of them raisins for the best part of an hour.' Thus 'stoning fruit,' is 'heavin' rocks' in Newfoundland. So abundant are the rocks in some places and so scanty the soil that suitable ground for the burial of the dead cannot be found; and amid huge bowlders the graves are made by soil brought from a distance; or, where this is not possible, the coffin is laid upon the rock above ground and then walled in and covered. It is not very uncommon for graves to be dug less in depth than the coffin. Of course this is true only in certain localities.

"Among the primitive population of the 'outports' there is, among the Protestant portion, a wonderful passion for choosing names taken from the Old Testament, and these at times the oddest and most uncommon they can select. Israels, Reubens, Daniels, Azariahs, and Isaiahs are plentiful as 'rocks.' But it is rather startling to be introduced to Miss Lo-Ruhamah Tucker, or Miss Lo-Ammi Squires, and to be told that the little flaxen-headed girl you are trying to make

friends with rejoices in the name borne by one of the daughters of the patriarch Job, Keren-happuch, or that the baby's name is Jerusha. To those not quite familiar with Scripture names it may be well to say that the first two are to be found in Hosea, I, 6, 9. It is on record that one child was baptized Beersheba, entered in the marriage register in due time as Bathsheba, but always called Bertha by her neighbors. A clergyman of the Church of England relates that once in beginning a service in a private house in an 'outport' a woman near him, intending no offensive familiarity, lifted up a corner of his surplice, and, after examining it with finger and thumb, pronounced it aloud, 'A beautiful piece of stuff.' Under similar circumstances he was startled on another occasion, in the middle of his sermon, by an old woman in the chimney corner calling out to some young ones, 'My gracious, girls, I've forgot the loaf! Julia, go out to the next house and hang on the bake-pot.' It must be understood that these instances occurred in some of the primitive outlying settlements, far from the center of civilization, where the people seldom see a clergyman, and are quite unaccustomed to the solemnities of religious assemblies. They welcome eagerly the rare visit of clergymen in these scattered hamlets, and whole batches of children of various ages are baptized by him at the same time. So cold is weather in winter, in the more northerly parts of the island, and so wretched their houses, that, in order to keep the loaf from freezing at night, it is a practice to wrap it in the blanket and take it to bed when retiring.

"The population is a mixed one, nearly half being the descendants of Irish settlers, the rest English; most of them sprung from progenitors who came originally from Devonshire, Dorsetshire, and Hampshire. The descendants of the latter retain many of the peculiarities of speech which still distinguish the peasants of Devonshire. They say, 'I's took no notice to she,' that is, no notice of her. 'Did 'ee want anything wi' I?' They speak of their 'handses and postses;' of their cows being 'alossed,' and their bread 'amade.' They will say 'Mubbe I's goun home.' The parson is 'pareson,' and they ask him to ''bide a spurt' with them. A 'spell' is either short continuance at labor or a time of rest. Short distances are, in common speech, measured as 'spells.' Thus 'two shoulder spells' is a distance a man would ordinarily carry a burden on his shoulders, resting once in the midst. The word 'obedience' is sometimes used for 'obeisance.' Thus, children are directed to 'make their obedience,' that is, to bow courtesy. The inhabitants of a settlement are called 'liviers,' and if any district be uninhabited there are said to be no 'liviers' in it. An expressive phrase is used to indicate a fall in the temperature—'To-day is a jacket colder than yesterday.' 'How do times govern in Saint John's?' is a common question which is answered by recounting the prices of fish, oil, and provisions. 'Praise the fair day at e'en,' is the Scottish proverb which has its counterpart in Newfoundland,' 'Praise the bridge that carries you over.' The folly of lazy, shiftless expedients is well expressed by saying 'He sits in one of the tilt and burns the other.' When admiration of a benevolent man is expressed, he is described as 'a terrible kind man;' or the weather is commended by saying, 'It's a shocking fine day.' Clever, in Newfoundland, means strong or large. A 'clever man' is a stout, large man. A 'clever baby' is a hearty, big baby. A singular use of the word 'accommodation' is common. A person of bad repute is said to have 'a very bad accommodation.' Or a servant on leaving his master requests 'an accommodation,' evidently a corruption of recommendation.

"With all their primitive and often amusing peculiarities and local customs the fisherfolk of Newfoundland have many sterling qualities of head and heart; and all they want to put them on a level with corresponding classes in other countries more advanced in the arts of civilized life is education. No one could live among them without liking them. In simplicity of character, warmth of heart, kindness, and hospitality, they are unsurpassed.*

* Cape Ann Advertiser, January 15, 1875.

FISHING VILLAGES OF NEWFOUNDLAND.—A writer in Harper's Magazine for 1854 writes:

"Fishing, or some process connected with it, is the occupation of almost every man, woman, and child in the country. Out of Saint John's, either fish or some sign of the finny tribe, visible or odoriferous is met with wherever there is a population. At a distance from the capital, in the small settlements, the fishermen live in unpainted wooden cottages, scattered in the coves, now perched upon rocks or hidden in the nooks, the neighborhood showing small patches of cultivated garden ground and copses of stunted wood. Each cabin has its fish flake, a kind of rude platform, elevated on poles ten or twelve feet high, covered with a matting of sticks and boughs, on which the fish are laid out to dry. At a convenient point on the shore is a stage, much more strongly constructed, jutting out over the water. It forms a small pier, made in part to serve the purpose of a ladder, at which a landing frequently is alone possible on the steep and rock-bound coast.

"On returning from the fishing ground, the boat is brought to the stage with the cargo, and sticking a prong in the head of each fish, they are thrown upon the stage one by one, as hay is pitched into a cart. The operations of cutting open, taking out the entrails, preserving the liver for oil, removing the backbone, and salting, are immediately performed upon the stage, in which the younger members of the family are employed. The drying on the flakes is the last process.

"It is the inshore fishery that is prosecuted by the British, not extending generally more than a mile or two from the harbors, that of the Great Bank being abandoned to the Yankees and French."

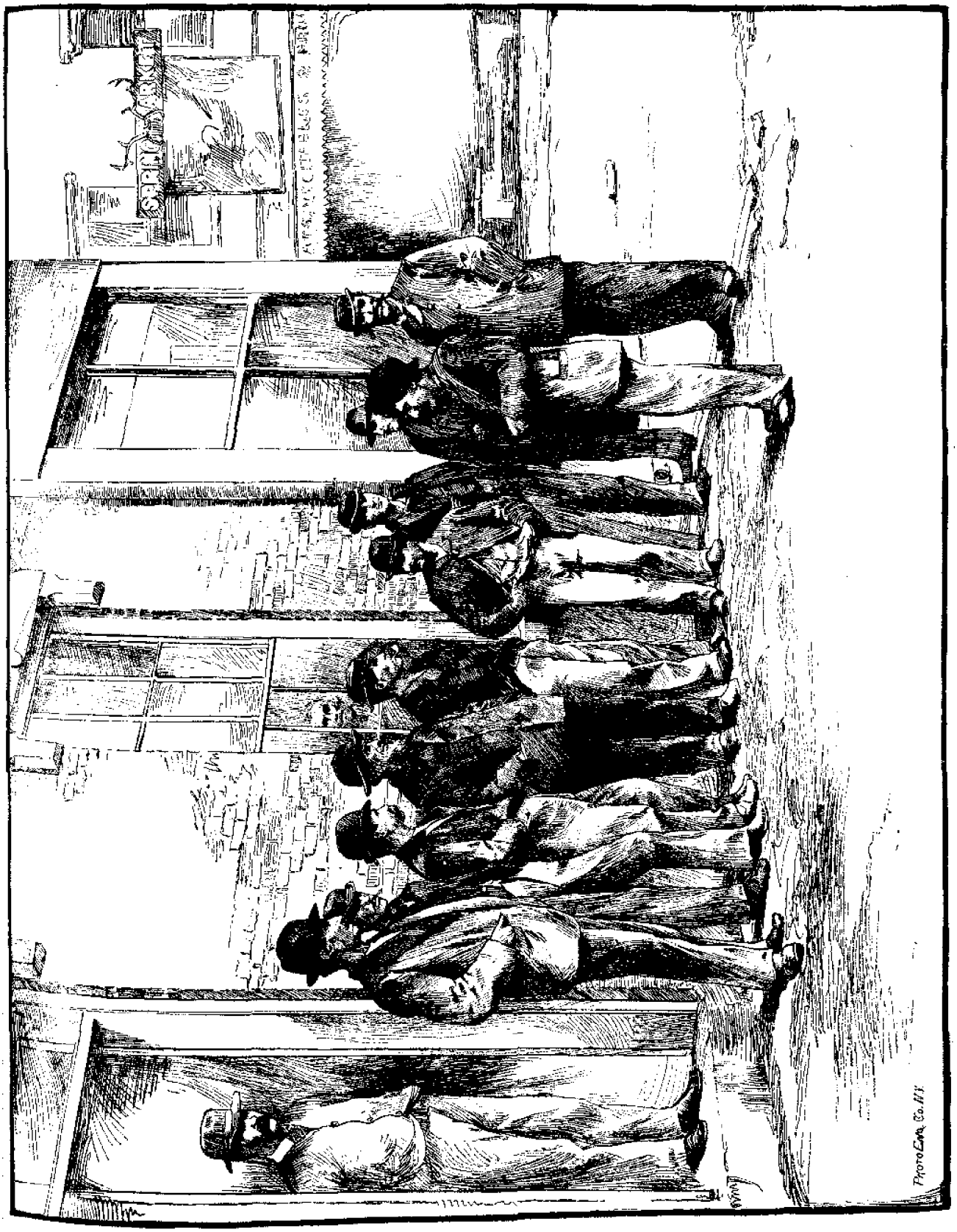
EARLY ENLISTMENT OF NEWFOUNDLANDERS IN THE FISHERIES OF NEW ENGLAND.—The following extract from Hubbard's History of New England, referring to events which took place in 1648, shows that fishermen from the regions now designated as the British Provinces, participated in the fisheries of New England at that time:

"Some of these petitioners being bound for England, their papers were searched by the authority of the governor and council, amongst which were found the copies of some petitions and queries to be presented to the commissioners for plantations. One petition was from some non-freemen, pretended to be in the name, and upon the sighs and tears, of many thousands, &c. In the preamble they showed how they were driven out of their native country by the tyranny of the bishops, &c. One of their petitions was for liberty of conscience and for a general governor. They had sent their agents up and down the country to get hands to this petition, but of the many thousands they spake of, they could find but twenty-five hands to the chief petition, and those were, for the most part, either young men who came over servants and never had overmuch shew of religion in them or, fishermen of Marblehead, feared to be profane persons, divers of whom were brought the last year from Newfoundland for the fishing season, and so to return again. Others were drawn in by their relations, and those depended upon for means how to live."*

7. THE IRISH FISHERMEN OF NEW ENGLAND.

IRISHMEN IN THE GLOUCESTER AND BOSTON FLEETS.—There are many Irishmen in the Gloucester fleet; among them are individuals who have distinguished themselves by their skill as fishermen. As a rule, however, these men, as well as those of Irish descent who have come from Newfoundland, are from the peasant classes, and are remarkable rather for stolidity, indifference to danger, and endurance of hardship, than for enterprise and activity. They are most likely to be found among the crews of the George's-men, the dull monotony of hand-lining being better suited to their temperaments than to that of the Americans, who prefer the cleaner, safer,

*Hubbard's History of New England, from the discovery to 1680. Boston: 1848, p. 515.



Portuguese from Azore Islands, engaged in George's Bank cod fishery from Gloucester, Mass.

From a photograph by T. W. Smillie.

variable, and more nervous employment of mackerel catching, or the more remunerative and exciting experiences of the fresh-halibut fishery.

The Irish fishermen are often clannish, and an Irish skipper soon gathers around him a crew of his own nationality. Vessels thus manned are not noted for their trimness and neatness.

At Boston there is a considerable fleet of market boats owned and manned entirely by fishermen from the west coast of Ireland. Their boats are built precisely like those of Galway and they employ their own home methods. This fishery is described at length elsewhere. A number of these Irish boats may be seen at any time in the docks at Commercial or "T" Wharves, Boston, and it is doubtful if anywhere else in this country can be seen so unadulterated a representation of Irish peasantry as in the old fishermen who sit about the docks counting their fish and chatting in Gaelic.

8. THE SCANDINAVIAN FISHERMEN OF NEW ENGLAND.

SCANDINAVIANS IN THE GLOUCESTER FLEET.—There may be found among the Gloucester fishermen a large percentage of Scandinavians, mostly Norwegian, a considerable number of Swedes, and a few Danes.

They are intelligent, enterprising men, a large proportion of whom rise to the command of vessels. In many of their traits they resemble the fishermen of New England birth. Strong, accustomed to hardship, skilled in the management of small boats from long experience inherited and personal at home, they are best suited for trawling and hand-lining from dories. The schools of Norway and Sweden have taught them navigation thoroughly and most of them are excellent sailors, having served frequently in the merchant marine. Many of these men have families, having brought their wives with them from home, or married their countrywomen who have come over alone. They soon learn to speak English.

9. THE PORTUGUESE FISHERMEN OF NEW ENGLAND.

PORTUGUESE FROM THE AZORE ISLANDS.—The so-called Portuguese fishermen of New England are, with few exceptions, natives of the Azores or Western Islands. Their attention was doubtless directed to this country by the visits of the Cape Cod vessels to their islands. A favorite cruising ground of the Provincetown sperm-whalers was the "Western Ground," which is situated off the Azores. These vessels, as well as those of New Bedford and Nantucket, have for nearly three-quarters of a century been accustomed to touch at Fayal to recruit, to land sick men, and to ship home oil. Extra hands were often shipped at the islands to fill up the complement of the crew or to fill the places of deserters. Many were brought home in the whale ships, and, as a consequence, some of the more enterprising began to bring over their families. A great impulse was given to their emigration in 1853, when the growth of a fungus devastated the vineyards and the wine crop of the Azores began rapidly to fail.

PORTUGUESE COLONIES IN NEW ENGLAND.—The largest colonies are at Provincetown, where there are numerous families established, and four hundred of the fishermen from this port are Western Islanders. At Gloucester, also, there is a considerable colony at "Portugee Hill," and about two hundred and fifty Portuguese fishermen in the fleet. There are many Portuguese families living at New Bedford and about eight hundred of the whalemen sailing from here are of this nationality.

CHARACTERISTICS OF PORTUGUESE FISHERMEN.—The Portuguese at sea are industrious and daring, having been accustomed for generations to lives of hardship and adventure in the boat fisheries at home, and by instinct sturdy laborers and frugal economists. They make good cooks

or "stewards," and are often found serving in that capacity. On shore they live in little homes of their own, built together in small communities, they mingling scarcely at all with their American neighbors, and rarely, if ever, going out to service. Men are absent in summer at sea, and in the winter engage in the shore fisheries. The women and children contribute to the general prosperity by gathering berries and beach plums for sale, and by small household industries. In Provincetown they are rather looked down upon and avoided by the native population, but this is apparently the result of race prejudice, for they are honest and unobtrusive. They are always self-supporting and often well to do. At sea the men are recognized as equals by their shipmates, and there are few vessels which have not among their crews some "Manuel" or "Antone" who talks a dialect of Latin-English and serves as a stimulant to ethnological speculations among his shipmates. The women are not so much in intercourse with Americans as the men, and usually speak English with difficulty. They are always devout Catholics and make up at Provincetown and Gloucester a large part of the congregation in the churches of this sect.

Of late years a number of Portuguese have become skippers of Gloucester vessels and part owners as well. There was formerly a prejudice against allowing them to take these positions, but this is now vanishing. A Portuguese skipper rarely has any but Portuguese in his crew. As a class they seem to prefer the George's cod fishery to the other fisheries, more than two-thirds of all the Portuguese fishermen of Gloucester in 1879 being in the George's fleet.

10. THE NEGRO FISHERMEN OF NEW ENGLAND.

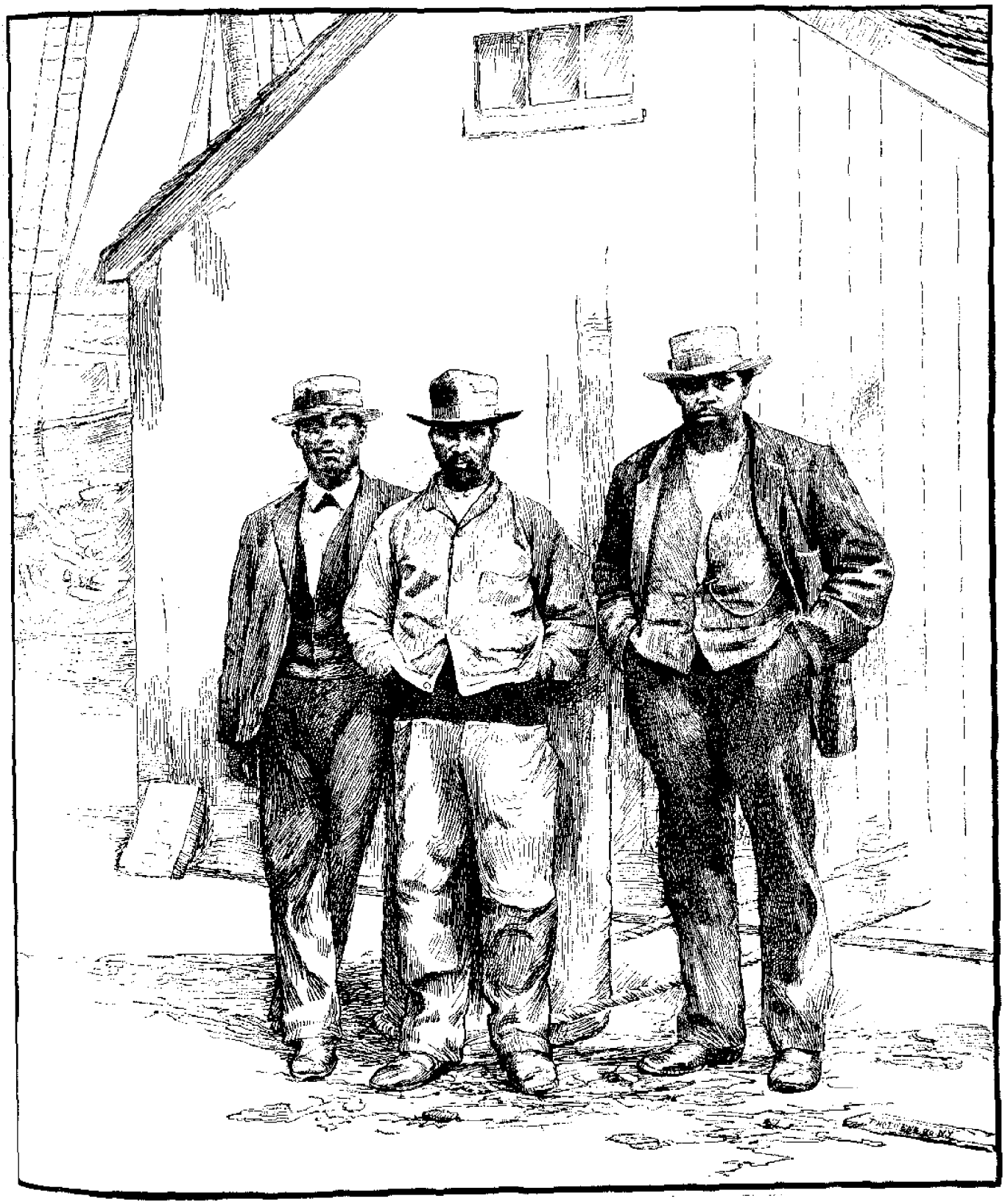
NEGROES AS WHALEMEN.—New England has few negro fishermen except in its whaling fleet, though occasionally one is found serving as cook on a cod or mackerel schooner. In 1880 there was not a negro among the 4,500 men in the Gloucester fleet.

The whaling fleet of New Bedford has among its crews many negroes, some shipped in the West Indies, others picked up at Zanzibar and other recruiting stations. In 1880 there were two hundred negroes in the fleet.

The Provincetown whalers often ship a part of their crew at Jamaica, St. Croix, or other of the West India Islands. These negroes are rarely of mixed blood, and are active, powerful men, speaking a *patois* hardly to be understood even by those who are familiar with the speech of the negroes of their own States. Negroes sometimes attain to the position of boat-steerer, but I have been unable to learn of instances where they have become captains or even mates.

11. THE "BAYMEN" OR FISHERMEN OF LONG ISLAND.

THE HABITS OF "BAYMEN."—The character of the fisheries of Long Island, New York, is such that it is a most difficult matter to determine how many men are professionally engaged in them. The men who fish are also by times oystermen, farmers, clammers, yachtsmen, and gunners, following either of these occupations as they may feel at different times inclined. On the south shore, and in some other parts, they style themselves "baymen." Many of them own yachts of from 3 to 20 tons, are good sailors, and keep their boats neatly painted, so that when taking out parties of anglers to fish for bluefish or other fishes their boat would hardly be thought to have been engaged in oystering most of the winter. This class of men are very numerous in all parts, and while individually they take but few fish, collectively their catch amounts to considerable in the course of the year. These "baymen" get from $3 to $5 per day for sailing a party, and usually get all the fish, although they do not demand it as part of the contract, as is the case at some places on the New Jersey coast.



Portuguese from Cape de Verde Islands, engaged in whale fishery from New Bedford, Mass.

From photograph by T. W. Smillie.

The men engaged in the menhaden fisheries are drawn from all parts of the island, are generally sons of farmers, and, with the exception of the captains of the steamers, engineers, and the superintendents of the factories, are not usually in the business more than a season or two.

MORALS.—The people who are engaged in the Island fisheries have more the manners and appearance of farmers than of the inhabitants of the exclusively fishing towns of the Eastern States, and they will compare favorably in regard to education, thrift, and morals with most rural populations. I think that these virtues increase with the number of miles between the villages and New York City, and that there is also a difference between the north and south sides in this respect which may have had some influence on the selection of so many places of residence by wealthy New Yorkers on the south side, with its flat, low, barren lands, and on the waters of the uninteresting Great South Bay, in preference to the high, rolling north side, with its charming, deep, romantic bays; here there have been more deeds of violence, and among the majority of the native population the language of ordinary intercourse is a shade more profane and loose. We do not mean by this to assert that, even in the district spoken of, these unprofitable vices are in excess of what one often finds in the interior, for most observant men must have noticed that in small villages and country places there is, especially among young men, an affectation of profanity and its accompanying vulgarity which seems strained to a city-bred man, and at first astonishes him when heard from any but the vilest of men. To those who have been much among soldiers, sailors, and fishermen, it is not at all surprising to hear bad language from men who are so well known for their honest and upright conduct that they think that they can afford to be careless in respect to this, a point which, however, impresses the stranger unfavorably.

HOMES.—The dwellings of the fishermen are generally neatly painted and comfortable; their families well dressed; and it is rare to see an exception to this rule, for the varied pursuits included in the list of labors by which a Long Island fisherman earns his living afford him a change from one which is temporarily dull to something better and find him employment of some kind the year around. When fishing is dull he turns his hand and boat to oystering, and if these are out of season the hard or soft clam offers him remunerative employment.

12. THE OYSTERMEN OF MARYLAND.

OYSTER DREDGERS.—There are two distinct classes of oystermen on the Chesapeake Bay, namely, dredgers, and scrapers or tongers. The business of oyster dredging is carried on by about 5,600 daring and unscrupulous men, who regard neither God nor man. The characteristics and habits of these men are discussed, in connection with the oyster fisheries of Maryland, in Section III of this report. Mr. Edmonds there describes them as among the most depraved bodies of workmen to be found in the country. They are "gathered from jails, penitentiaries, workhouses, and the lowest and vilest dens of the city."

OYSTER TONGERS.—The oyster tongers or scrapers are, both socially and morally, somewhat superior to the scrapers, though, as a class, indolent and improvident. Mr. Edmonds, in the section above referred to, also discusses the characteristics of this class of oystermen. The oyster laws of Maryland require every vessel and boat engaged in gathering oysters to be licensed. The amount received from tonging license must be paid by the clerk of the circuit court of the county "to the school commissioners for the public schools of the respective counties where such license is issued; provided, the sum received from white tongers shall go to white schools, and the sum from colored tongers to the colored schools."

DREDGERS AND TONGERS COMPARED.—The two classes may thus be briefly contrasted:

The oyster-dredge-fishermen of the Chesapeake are almost entirely whites of the lowest order.

The oyster tongers are one-third negroes, and the other two-thirds white fishermen, small farmers, and truckers.

The number of men in a crew of a dredger averages eight; in the crew of a scraper, not more than three. The total number of men employed in dredging equals 5,600, and in scraping 5,148. The average returns for a season for each dredger is $175; for each scraper, $225.

13. THE OYSTER-SHUCKERS OF MARYLAND.

OYSTER SHUCKERS.—There are nearly 10,000 persons employed in oyster-shucking in Maryland, about two-thirds of the number being males, and the rest females. Their aggregate annual earnings are about $800,000. About three-fourths of the men are negroes, and they are, as a rule, steady workmen, while the whites are disposed to be idle and intemperate. Nearly all the females are employed in the steam oyster-houses of Baltimore. They are mostly white girls of foreign parentage, and range in age from eighteen to twenty-five years, the proportion of older ones, as of *colored*, being *small*.

14. THE FISHERMEN OF FLORIDA.

BY SILAS STEARNS.

FISHERMEN OF KEY WEST.—The majority of the fishermen of Key West are descendants of the Bahamians who have lived on the island for many years, or are quite recently from the Bahama Islands.

The remainder are Cuban Spaniards, negroes from the West Indies, and the usual sprinkling of Irish, French, Germans, and Swedes, who are found everywhere in this country.

There are some few fishermen from the North Atlantic States, but they do not form so prominent a class as the "*Bahama Conchs*," or the "*West Indian negroes*."

The Bahamians, both black and white, have been brought up on the water, and are probably the best boatmen and fishermen in this region. They know no other professions than fishing, sponging, turtling, and wrecking; and it may be said to be an hereditary profession, since their fathers and forefathers followed the same profession and no others. With the other classes or nationalities it is quite different. They are men who have been drifting about the world as sailors, and have been left here by vessels of all the nations, and for the present have adopted the profession of fishermen.

I can not learn of any disaster happening to the Key West fishermen, beyond an occasional wrecking of some small vessel where no lives were lost. No smacks sailing out of this port have ever been lost.

The manner in which the fishermen live on shore is plain, yet comfortable. The better class, or well-to-do fishermen, are the Bahamians and Americans who have families. They own small, comfortable houses in the city, and have all to eat and wear that other classes of people do.

In society they occupy a good standing, and very often hold responsible and honorable offices in the local government.

Another class, consisting chiefly of young and unmarried men, who are dissipated, and when ashore lead an unprofitable and low life, are looked down upon with contempt and considered a public nuisance. The temperance reform has done great good here, and is rapidly thinning out their numbers.

The older men of all classes are generally very ignorant, but few being able to write their names, but the young people, having fair school advantages, are, as a rule, quite intelligent, and can now transact their own business as their fathers never could.

FISHERMEN OF CEDAR KEYS.—Nearly all of the two hundred and sixty fishermen of this place are Americans or of American birth. The majority of them are men who have been engaged in the different branches of the fisheries on the Atlantic coast, in such places as Chesapeake Bay and coast of the Carolinas, and the balance are natives of West Florida, who have, in most cases, taken up this business quite recently. Taken as a class they are quite intelligent, industrious, and quick to adopt new methods that will tend to facilitate their work.

The Spanish, Italian, and French creoles, who are generally lazy, ignorant, and inclined to keep up old styles of fishing, &c., and are found in the majority at many of the other fishing communities west of Cedar Keys, are not often met with among the fishermen, and are not at all popular.

FINANCIAL PROFITS OF FISHERMEN.—Although they work steadily and well, the seasons for profitable fishing are so short that they do not gain more than a bare subsistence.

There is great wear and tear to the nets also, one man often using up three or four nets in one season. When these nets, perhaps a new boat, and their household expenses are paid for there is little or nothing left to support them during the time that fishing is not carried on. Some are fortunate enough to get other employment, or to be engaged in the turtle fishing, but many are not, and such ones get so deeply in debt to the storekeepers that the profits of the ensuing year are taken to pay them. Nearly all are in debt from various causes, with no prospect of ever getting clear again.

FISHING POPULATION OF APPALACHICOLA.—The fishing population of Appalachicola includes representations of nearly all the nations of the world, the Americans and Spanish creoles being in the majority. Of the older men in this business here, some are Europeans who came in vessels when Appalachicola enjoyed a large cotton trade; others are New Englanders, left by men-of-war at various times, and the rest are natives of the Southern States. Many of the young men are of that class of rovers found aboard all the merchant vessels of this country, who have drifted here in some unaccountable manner, to stay but a season or two and then to continue their wanderings.

Those of the fishermen that are really inhabitants of the place are, as a rule, good citizens in every way. There are but few among them whose fathers had been in the fishing business before them, but the rising generation will probably adopt their parents' profession, perhaps more from necessity than choice. Their health is very good, in spite of the popular supposition that men engaged in sponge-fishing are unhealthy. Sickness is a rare visitor, a touch of biliousness or slight attack of "chills and fever" being the only forms. One captain told me that he had been here ten years, and believed there had not been over a dozen deaths of children from sickness in the whole time. In the fall a few cases of fever and ague occur. While on the water, in the bay, or on the "sponge reefs" a case of sickness is a very rare occurrence. They are not especially remarkable for longevity, but many of the old men of seventy, eighty, and eighty five years of age are still hale and hearty, and in some cases perform hard labor. With the women it is different. They marry young, and when thirty five or forty are broken down, and appear as though of twice that age. They very seldom live to be over sixty years of age, and the greater number do not reach their fiftieth year. Nearly every married couple has a large family of from four to twelve children. Their dwellings are unusually good, being in most cases houses that were built for men of wealth, when Appalachicola was in its prime; they are not kept up in their former good condition, yet make very comfortable habitations; and there being a small garden attached, are supplied with vegetables and fruits at little expense or trouble. Orange trees thrive well here, and nearly every yard has some of them.

The food used by these people on shore is plain and offering little variety, consisting mainly of fish and oysters. Fresh meat is not much used, salt pork taking its place. While fishing the men generally live in better style, having all the best articles of food that can be bought at the stores. The reason of this is, that *all* the provisions are advanced on credit, and the storekeepers, having the vessel or boat, gear, and catch as security, are willing to advance more than to any one of the ordinary fishermen with a family, who has only his share of the catch wherewith to pay all of the necessary household bills.

The school system is very poor, only the children of the richer people attending, the tuition and outfit of books being too expensive for most of the poor. However, all the children receive some education in various ways, learning to read, write, and figure a little.

Of amusements there are but few, beyond an occasional gathering of old and young at some private house, where dancing and games are enjoyed, with refreshments at the end.

It is a quiet and orderly place. Every one conducts himself in public in a manner that would stand the severest scrutiny. Even the wild young men who, having "knocked about" over the world, are accustomed to all vices, here seem to be awed by the steadiness of others, and carry themselves accordingly.

When any one commits an act which by the authorities of the town is considered disgraceful, or not in accordance with their ideas, they furnish him an old "bateau," and give him but a short time to choose the direction which he shall take.

There are one or two bar rooms, where the old and middle-aged men obtain their "toddy" without comment from others, but if a young man indulges too freely it will never be forgotten or forgiven. Many of the population, comprising the Spanish, Italians, and French, are Roman Catholics, provided with a priest and church, which they attend with their usual regularity. There are two or three Protestant churches, both white and colored, which are also well attended by old and young. It was said by a stranger, who was rather disgusted with the dullness of the place, that "because of having nothing else to do, the people went to church." The funeral of a young man took place since I have been here, and I must say that the men and boys turned out to attend in a manner that surprised me.

I have not met a fisherman yet who can give me an exact statement of his yearly earnings, for they are engaged in many kinds of work, and are idle part of the time. By putting several statements together, I believe I have arrived at a reasonable estimate of the profits of an active fisherman for one year. Let us suppose such a man is very fortunate and has work at all the fishing trades of the place in succession. First comes the sponge-fishing, beginning in March and ending in September, out of which, with good luck, a man may clear $200. He then is several weeks idle, when he joins a crew fitted out for the fall mullet-fishing. At this he works until the 1st of December, perhaps, clearing $40 or $50. The season for shipping oysters has by that time arrived, and as soon as he is back from mullet-fishing he is offered a chance on an oyster-boat. It is probably the last of December before he gets fully to work at oystering, which he follows until March, when the sponging-vessels again fit out. He will make on the oyster-boat about $75.

Summing up the year's profits, it will be seen that this man makes $300 clear of his own expenses, with which he clothes himself, and clothes and feeds his family.

15. THE FISHERMEN OF MOBILE, ALABAMA.

BY SILAS STEARNS.

Mobile smack and oyster fishermen are as a class so mixed in nationality that there are hardly two individuals of the same general character. Among them one finds a majority of southern Europeans, while the minority are natives of the United States and northern Europe. There are very few negroes in their number, and when such an one is employed it is as cook on some small oyster-boat or bay fishing-boat. There are but few cases where the profession is hereditary, and in such cases the man is quite sure to be of Spanish, Italian, or Greek descent. The older men in the business are, as a general rule, of foreign birth, but the young and middle-aged ones are Americans. Their health is good, and they are a strong, hardy class of people; I think there is far less sickness among them than among the planters and laboring men on land, who are troubled with all the forms of malarial diseases.

Consumption has claimed many of the smack fishermen during the last four or five years, but whether the disease is brought on and aggravated by cold and exposure or by dissipation is hard to say. Rheumatism is a common affliction among the fishermen, and many of them are nearly helpless with it. The fishermen of this section, when not broken down by dissipation, live to a considerable age, retaining active mental and physical powers to the age of eighty or ninety years. The women, marrying young and rearing large families, are worn out in early life and seldom live beyond their fiftieth year. As the greater number of the fishermen have their homes in the city, they live in about the same manner as other laboring men and mechanics do. Those who have enterprise enough to make a home are of the better-behaved class, and they live quite comfortably, though in summer, when not much fishing is done, the family have a hard time to obtain the necessaries of life. The majority of the fishermen do not marry at all, and spend their time ashore in carousing and in the "lock-up."

Very few have any education, and it rarely occurs that a fisherman is found who can read or write. Their children, if their parents live in the city, have good school advantages, and will probably make a better class of citizens. Nearly all who profess any religion are Catholics.

It is impossible to learn the exact profits of active fishermen, but a close estimate can be made. Some months they make $40 or $50 and there are many months when they make nothing. Several intelligent men tell me that they average $1 per day above their own expenses of board throughout the year, with which they clothe themselves and care for their families, if they have any.

16. THE FISHERMEN OF NEW ORLEANS.

BY SILAS STEARNS.

The New Orleans fishermen and oystermen are nearly all descendants of the Mediterranean coast fishermen and sailors, who came to this country years ago to engage in the fishing or fruit trade.

Frenchmen, Spaniards, and Minorcans are probably in the majority, the balance being made up of Italians, Portuguese, Sicilians, Corsicans, Greeks, and there are even a good many Malayans in their numbers. In nearly every case the fathers and forefathers were fishermen or sailors, and these men follow in their footsteps as nearly as they can in a country so different from that of their ancestors. They even preserve the old style of rigging their boats—a style seen nowhere else in this country.

The old and middle-aged men, as a rule, are very ignorant of anything outside of their profession, and it is quite rare to find one who can read or write. The French are generally more intelligent than the others, having been longer in this country, and seem to gain knowledge more readily than the Spanish and Italian creoles. The Malayans are also noticeable for their industry and promptness in business matters, and for their quickness to learn. They all retain much of the superstitiousness of their ancestors, which often influences them to their loss. For instance, a party of seine fishermen go into the marsh-bayous at night for the purpose of seining out some good fish feeding-ground. While they are in the act of hauling the seine, they see the suspended balls of light commonly called "jack-o'-lanterns," and which are often found in the swamps or marshes when peculiar gases and state of atmosphere are favorable, whereupon they become paralyzed with fear, and as soon as possible hasten from the spot, believing the lights to represent some evil being. When once frightened from a place in this way it is hard to entice them there again. The clouds, the sky, the wind, &c., have each their peculiar signification to them at times, and they will run no risk when the signs are unfavorable; not that there can be any great risk of their lives, but they seem to fear invisible objects, or that, if the signs are this way or that, they are sure to catch no fish, and therefore do not try.

Nearly all these people are devout Catholics, and attend the services of their church as regularly and promptly as any class of people.

On their boats or at fishing camps they live quite comfortably, but in rather a peculiar way in comparison with other American fishermen. There seems to be no regular time for anything, either work or recreation.

They work part of the night and sleep a part of the day, and have their meals thrown in at any and all times. The usual plan is to have a lunch at daylight—that is, coffee, bread, and fish—and the work on hand is attended to until about 10 o'clock, when a hearty breakfast is prepared and eaten, after which they sleep until about 4 o'clock in the afternoon, when dinner is served. From dinner-time until midnight, or after, considerable work is done; then come a lunch and more sleep. While at home they live in much the same style, even if working in the markets.

Taken as a class, these people are hardy and strong, seldom having sickness of any kind; even the contagious forms of disease which are so prevalent here in summer are unfeared by them. The men live to a considerable age, and retain their activity to a remarkable degree. But, as is the case in most warm climates, the women here have comparatively short lives. They generally marry at fifteen or sixteen years of age, and, having perhaps reared large families, are worn-out old women at the age of forty-five or fifty years.

17. THE FISHERMEN OF THE COAST OF TEXAS.

BY SILAS STEARNS.

The fishermen of the Texas coast are of much the same class as those of the Louisiana coast, though there seem to be more of Spanish descent than at the latter place. These Spaniards and Mexicans come from Mexico and represent the wandering set of fishermen to be found in every community. As at New Orleans, the Mediterranean countries are well represented.

There are but few negroes to be found among Texas fishermen, and hardly a man from northern Europe or the northern part of the United States.

From all that can be learned it is evident that the fishermen of this coast are very similar to those of New Orleans and vicinity, and therefore it will hardly be necessary to repeat what has already been said. It is probable that the Louisiana fishermen are better off financially, and

live more comfortably than those of this coast, yet there seems no good reason why this should be so, for fish are more abundant in Texas, and bring as good prices. The majority of these men are married and have their homes in the cities or towns near where they sell their catch.

18. THE AMERICAN FISHERMEN OF CALIFORNIA.

The number of Americans engaged in fishing on the coast of California is exceedingly limited, as Prof. Jordan points out in his discussion of the history of the fisheries of this State. The principal fishing towns, San Buenaventura, San Diego, and Wilmington, have grown up entirely within the last twenty years. The Americans introduced the eastern system to some extent, but the more frugal habits of the Chinese and Italians, who enter the field as their rivals, have enabled them to occupy the field to the exclusion of the former, who prefer to turn their attention to more lucrative industries. As is elsewhere pointed out, the markets in this region are very poor, and there is but little encouragement for enterprising men to engage in the fisheries. The fishing of Americans has been, for the most part, confined to seal hunting, shark fishing, whale fishing, trolling in the barracuda season, and similar industries which promise greater returns than ordinary fishing. The first house in San Buenaventura was built in 1860, and in 1870 its houses were nearly all of adobe. The first house about San Diego was built about 1868, while Wilmington arose about 1870. The growth of these coast towns was rapid for a few years. About 1875 it became feverish, and each of the towns went through a "real estate period." Speculation was universal, and hundreds of people came to each town hoping to make their fortunes. Prices were high, and in every department of work about fifteen men were engaged where there is now one. Then came a relapse and a collapse with harder times; there was less speculation and less demand for it. The whale fisheries declined; there were fewer mouths to feed and less cash to buy food, and the fishermen left the region.

19. THE ITALIAN FISHERMEN ON THE PACIFIC COAST.

FROM NOTES BY DAVID S. JORDAN.

In the shore fisheries of the Pacific coast there are engaged three hundred and three Italian fishermen.

SAN DIEGO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA.—In San Diego County, where formerly there was a considerable number of Italians engaged in fishing, there are now none, they having been starved out by the Chinese, who furnished fish to the local market of San Diego at such low rates as to render competition on the part of the Italians impossible. It is not more than ten years ago that the Italian fishermen had the entire business at this place in their own hands. When they left they traveled in a northerly direction.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY, CALIFORNIA.—In Los Angeles County, at Wilmington, there are eight Italian fishermen. They fish in two boats. These boats are not provided with live-boxes; the fish are therefore thrown in a heap on the forward part of the deck.

VENTURA AND SANTA BARBARA COUNTIES, CALIFORNIA.—There is only one professional Italian fisherman in Ventura County, at San Buenaventura. He has a small lateen-rigged boat. He uses two seines, each 240 feet by 10 feet, and one gill-net. His fish he peddles about the town at 6 cents per pound. An Italian shoemaker buys up the catches of some Chinese and Californians and peddles them through the town and among the Ventura Valley farmers, who give vegetables in exchange.

The fishermen in Santa Barbara County are chiefly Genoese, who speak English, French, and

Danish. They nearly all came here from San Francisco about eight years ago. Most of them are Roman Catholics, and, as a rule, are a simple, hearty, honest class of people. They live in reasonable comfort; better than the same class in Italy. Many of them have families, and they *are quiet, industrious, order-loving citizens. Their profits are small, nor could they be increased* much by catching more fish. Their children are generally bright and active. Many of them speak English and Spanish well, besides French and Italian. The first Italian fisherman who came there, Francesco Cavagleri, arrived in 1835. He made money by supplying a Spanish family of wealth with fish. The Italians with their lateen-rigged vessels came to San Francisco in 1848, and spread southward. The winter storms were too severe, and there were no wharves from which they could fish, so they left, and the Italians now there, five in number, have none of them been residents more than eight years. Their profits are small, and have been since the flush times of 1874-'76.

MONTEREY COUNTY, CALIFORNIA.—The Italians living and fishing in Monterey County are *conspicuous in their costume, which consists of black and white checked shirts, red flannel under-*shirts, gray trousers, black felt hats, golden ear-rings, and high rubber boots. On clear days a large Italian flag waves from their principal house inscribed, "Roma, la capitale d' Italia." Two or three of the nine Italians composing this company at Monterey are married. This company came from San Francisco and settled here in 1873. Georgio Vignosi, the captain, says that some sorts of fish, especially the flounders, have diminished in number, and that the bay has been over-fished. They manage to make a profit, on an average, of from $5 to $10 apiece per week. As will be seen by comparison, they make more than the Italian fishermen in San Francisco. They have five sail boats, averaging three-fourths of a ton, and of the usual pattern. One is lateen-rigged, the others sloop-rigged. Besides these, they own three skiffs. They own two hundred pieces of seine, each 240 feet long; some fine-meshed, for the capture of smelt, and some coarse-meshed for taking salmon. They own, in addition, twenty gill-nets, each from 240 to 250 feet long, and forty bunches of set-lines.

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY, CALIFORNIA.—In Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz County, there are fourteen fishermen from Italy. They live in the southern part of the city in detached houses, not forming a fisherman's quarter. They lash their boats, when not in use after hoisting them, to the docks; they do but little fishing in winter, except at certain favorable times, on account of rough weather. At Soquel are three Italians. These own four boats. They ship to San Francisco, and make greater profits than are made elsewhere on the coast.

SAN FRANCISCO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA.—First in importance as the abode of Italian fishermen on the California coast comes San Francisco County. In the city of San Francisco there are probably not less than 220 regular fishermen. About 70 boats are in use here. In 1876 the "paranzelle" was introduced, a drag-net of common use in the Mediterranean Sea.

The fishermen of other nationalities threatened to burn up these nets and the boats used when they were first employed. San Francisco is the only place in this country where this style of fishing has been introduced. There were formerly two rival companies who used these nets; they have now consolidated and divide the profits equally. Each company has three boats and employs 12 or 13 men, one of whom is constantly engaged in selling fish in the market. The stock is owned chiefly by men not actually engaged in fishing. This is divided irregularly, one man owning a net, another a boat, &c. Out of the gross profits are paid first the entire expenses, including provisions of the men, wear of the boats and nets, &c. The remainder is divided into shares, one share to each boat, one to each actual fisherman, and one-half share to each net actually in use. In these

two companies, there being six boats, two nets, and 25 men, the whole is divided into thirty-two shares. The captain sometimes receives one and one-fourth shares.

MARIN AND HUMBOLDT COUNTIES, CALIFORNIA.—In Marin County there are three points at which Italian fishermen may be found: Point Reyes, where are 2 Italians using one boat; at Marshall's, where 20 Italian fishermen live, using six boats; and on the west side of Tomales Bay, opposite Hamlet, where there are three companies of fishermen, chiefly Italians, 12 men in all, using six boats. They ship their fish to San Francisco. The total number of Italian fishermen in this county is 34.

About Eureka, Humboldt County, there are 3 Italian fishermen. At certain seasons some of those engaged in Salmon fishing on the Columbia River, Oregon, come down here for a short time and join in the fishing.

WASHINGTON TERRITORY AND OREGON.—In Washington Territory there are 9 Italian fishermen: 3 at Port Madison, 3 at Utsaladdy, and 3 at Port Townsend, fishing with boat for halibut and dogfish, which they ship to San Francisco or Portland, or else sell in their own town.

In addition to the numbers of Italian fishermen above enumerated and distributed, there are 800 Italians engaged in the Columbia River salmon fisheries, and 400 more in other salmon fisheries, including those of Sacramento River in which 345 Italian fishermen are employed.

These figures give a grand total of 1,513 Italian fishermen in all the regions above discussed.

20. THE PORTUGUESE FISHERMEN ON THE PACIFIC COAST.

THE CAUSES OF IMMIGRATION.—The presence of the Portuguese fishermen in California and New England is explained by Sir C. Wyville Thomson, who, in his "Voyage of the Challenger,"* pointed out the cause of the extensive emigrations of the Portuguese from the Azores shortly after 1853:

"Formerly Pico was the vineyard of the Azores. Previous to the year 1853, 20,000 to 30,000 pipes [from 3,000,000 to 4,500,000 gallons] were exported from the island of a dry, rather high-flavored wine, which commanded a fair price in the markets of Europe under the name 'Pico madeira.' In 1853 the wretched *Oidium Tuckeri* devastated the vineyards and reduced the population of the island, who depended mainly on their wine production for their subsistence, to extreme misery. Nothing would stop the ravages of the fungus. In successive years the crop was reduced to one-fourth, one-eighth, one-tenth, and then entirely ceased, and the inhabitants emigrated in great numbers to Brazil and California. Some few attempts have been made to restore the vines, but up to the present time there is practically no manufacture of wine in the Azores."

Doubtless many of the emigrants also settled in New England, especially the sea-faring portion, where they could have every opportunity of plying their vocation, and their success is referred to in the article on the Portuguese fishermen of New England, while the agricultural portion settled in Brazil and California, countries in every respect suited to their tastes.

THE AZOREANS AT HOME.—The Portuguese, judging from the allusions to some of their peculiarities made by the same author in vol. 2, chap. 1, pp. 45–49, are at home an industrious, unsophisticated, merry, and extremely religious people.

"Their industry and simplicity of life are evinced by the neat appearance which pervaded their 'steadings' and their primitive method of thrashing wheat, which is briefly as follows: The wheat is spread on a baked-clay floor, and two sledges, drawn by a pair of oxen apiece, go round and round 'treading out the corn.' The operation is accompanied by violent good-natured exertions

* Voyage of the Challenger, vol. ii, chap. 1, p. 29.

on the part of the drivers urging the oxen to do their duty, and by a steady resistance on the part of the animals, which, being unmuzzled, find it more attractive to snuffle among the straw for grains of wheat. The sledges are frequently weighed down by a mother or aunt holding a laughing, black-eyed babe."

The high esteem in which they hold religious observances is gathered from the following paragraph taken from pp. 48–50 of the same work:

"In one of the churches of the town* there is an image of our Saviour, which is regarded with extreme devotion. The inhabitants, in cases of difficulty or danger, bring it rich offerings, and the wealth of the image in jewels was variously stated to us at from £1,000 to £100,000, in proportion to the faith and piety of our informants. There had been great want of rain in the island for some months past, and it had been determined to take a step which is only taken in extreme cases—to parade the image round town in solemn procession. * * * The square and streets below us were, for hours before, one sea of carapuças and capotes, male and female, but chiefly the latter, their wearers sitting on the hot pavement, chattering quietly. About 5 o'clock a large number of acolytes in scarlet tunics left the church and formed a double row, lining the streets in the path of the procession. Then came a long double row of priests in violet chasubles and stoles, repeating the responses to a portly brother, who led the column, intoning from his breviary. Then a double row of priests in white, and then a group of the higher clergy in cloth of gold and richly 'appareled' vestments, preceding the image, which was carried aloft under a crimson canopy. The image was certainly not a high work of art, but it seemed to be loaded with valuable ornaments. Behind the canopy walked the civil governor (Count de Praya de Victoria), the military governor, and some of the high State functionaries, and the procession was closed by a column of monks. As the image approached, the people knelt everywhere within sight of it, and remained kneeling until it was past."

A favorite way of spending the hour of recess from work at noon is thus portrayed:

"Within the house, whither most of our party had retreated from the roasting sun, the first large entrance-room was encumbered with the beautiful ripe ears of maize, of all colors, from the purest silvery white to deep orange and red. It was high noon, however, and a lot of bright-eyed girls, who had been husking the maize, had knocked off work; and on the arrival of the strangers a lad brought out a guitar, and they got up a dance, very simple and merry, and perfectly decorous."

The general appearance of the peasants of the Azores is described briefly as follows: "The men are generally good-looking, with spare, lithe, bronzed figures, dark eyes, and wide, laughing mouths, with fine white teeth. The women in the Azores are usually inferior to the men in appearance, but at this farm† some of the girls were very good-looking also, with clear complexions, and more of a Spanish than a Portuguese type."

Their dress is very peculiar. "The girls, as soon as they can afford it, purchase, if they have not already inherited, a long, full blue cloth cloak, coming down to the heels, and terminating in an enormous hood, which projects, when it is pulled forward, a foot at least before the face. The cloak and hood are thus a complete disguise, for if the lower part of the hood be held together by the hand—a very common attitude, while the eyes can be used with perfect freedom—both figure and face are entirely hidden. These cloaks and hoods are very heavy and close, and it seems strange that such a fashion can hold its ground where the conditions are very similar to those in the extreme south of Spain or Italy. The head-dress of the men is singular, but it has a more rational relation to the exigencies of the climate. It is also made of dark blue cloth, a round cap

* Ponta Delgada. † In the house at which the dance, just alluded to, took place.

with a long projecting peak, and a deep curtain falling over the neck and shoulders, an excellent defense, whether from rain or sun. The odd thing about it is that where the hat is made in the extreme of a by-gone 'mode,' which still lingers in the remote parts of the island, the sides of the peak are carried up on each side of the head into long curved points, like horns. The horns are 'going out,' however, although a general festa,* such as we were fortunate enough to see, still brought many grotesque pairs of them into the city."

These strange forms of dress have, of course, been abandoned with their emigration, and the Californian Portuguese fishermen of the present day, whose places of settlement on the Pacific coast are here mentioned, resemble in appearance, so far as dress is concerned, the fishermen of any other nationality.

PORTUGUESE FISHERMEN AND WHALEMEN OF CALIFORNIA.—In San Diego County there is but one Portuguese fisherman, as is also the case in Los Angeles, the county immediately adjoining. In this county, at Portuguese Land, north of Wilmington, formerly existed a whaling fishery, but it was abandoned four or five years ago. The difficulty of obtaining fresh water was the chief cause of the removal of this company.

In Santa Barbara County the same number of Portuguese as recorded for San Diego and Los Angeles Counties is not exceeded.

In San Luis Obispo County there are forty-four Portuguese fishermen; one of these, at Port Harford, fishes at the mouth of San Luis Creek, using a seine of 1-inch mesh, 300 by 16 feet, now worth $25, when new, $75. He sends his fish twice a week, in wagons or by train, to San Luis Obispo, where he sells them at 6 cents per pound. The fish which are not shipped he salts and exchanges with the farmers for produce. In this way he exchanges about 100 pounds per week. The amount salted in summer is greater than that salted in the winter.

Three miles north of this point, on Pecho Rancho, there are two more Portuguese, who spend their time in fishing and hunting for abalones; and five miles still farther north are two more Portuguese fishermen. These last ship to San Luis market, salting what they do not ship.

In summer three of the whalers are engaged in fishing for the San Luis market, salting the surplus. They "still-fish" and troll in the San Luis Bay.

There are two companies of whalers in San Luis Obispo County—one at San Simeon, which is commanded by Captain Clark, and the other at Whalers' Point, about half a mile north of the landing at Port Harford, commanded by Captain Marshall.

The company at San Simeon consists of twenty men, all Portuguese but one, and most of them from the Azore Islands. They are hired by Captain Clark, who owns the entire outfit. This camp has existed for sixteen years past.

The camp located at Whaler's Point consists of twenty-one men, all but one of whom are Portuguese from the Azores. This company was established in 1868 or 1869.

The men at both camps are discharged in summer and a new set hired in the fall. Some of the men, when discharged, engage themselves in fishing for the San Luis market.

The outfits, &c., of these whaling companies are discussed in another section of this report.

In Monterey County there are forty-seven Portuguese fishermen, distributed as follows: At Monterey there are six, divided into two companies, between whom considerable rivalry exists. They use set-lines, and consequently catch little else but red rockfish. Some of these Portuguese have been there since about 1860, others having joined from time to time. They own five boats and three skiffs. They supply the hotels in Monterey and ship the rest to San Francisco. The

* The religious procession already described.

ruling price is 6 cents per pound. When the whaling season is over, the whalemen join in the work of supplying the local markets.

There is one Portuguese at Moss Landing, Castroville. In this county are two whaling companies—one at Carmelo, consisting of seventeen men, all Portuguese, commanded by Captain Mariano. They have two boats, and during the past year took one finback, three humpback, and three gray whales. Last year this company was at Point Sur, farther south in Monterey County. During a great portion of the winter the sea runs so high that the men dare not go out.

The Monterey whaling company consists of twenty-three men, all Portuguese, and all but one from the Azores. Their commander is Captain Verissimo. This company has been in Monterey since 1855. They own three boats of New Bedford make, and during the past year they have taken fourteen whales and two basking sharks.

In San Mateo County there is one Portuguese, residing at Pescadero. He owns a gill-net which he sets at the mouth of Pescadero Creek, catching the salmon as they run up to spawn. He sells his fish in Pescadero, and finds the market so small that, although without family, he makes but a poor living.

In San Francisco there are twenty Portuguese engaged in the shore fisheries. Details of their habits and mode of living will be found in another paragraph below.

There are also thirteen Portuguese engaged in the San Francisco cod fleet, and forty more in the San Francisco off-shore whale fleet.

PORTUGUESE IN WASHINGTON TERRITORY AND OREGON.—In Washington Territory there are probably not more than three Portuguese, who, at Gig Harbor, are occupied in catching dogfish.

On the Columbia River, engaged in the salmon fishery, there are about one hundred Portuguese.

21. THE SPANISH FISHERMEN ON THE PACIFIC COAST.

SPANISH FISHERMEN IN CALIFORNIA.—There are now but few fishermen of Spanish descent in California, though occasionally they may be found among the mixed fishing population of the larger places.

"About one hundred years ago," writes Jordan, "the various missions of California were founded. Later the country became the abode of Spanish grandees, who became the owners of large tracts of land, depending chiefly for subsistence on their herds of cattle, and paying but little attention to fishing. Their descendants and successors, the 'Californians,' men, for the most part, of mixed Spanish and Indian blood, fished and still fish only with hook and line. To the present day they compose the larger portion of those who sit on the wharves in the sun catching sculpins, but they own no boats and are not truly fishermen."

There are at present not more than twenty Spaniards on the Pacific coast who can properly be termed fishermen. Four of this number are in Santa Cruz County, fifteen in San Francisco County, and one in Marin County.

The Spaniards of Santa Cruz County have in use two boats. They live in the southern part of Santa Cruz City, and fish for rockfish, sea bass, and barracuda. Little fishing is done by them or the Italian fishermen, their neighbors, in the winter on account of the rough seas which at that season must be encountered in the fisheries.

Of the Spaniards living in San Francisco City nothing can be stated as to their peculiarities of life. They live at the west end of Vallejo street, about the Vallejo street wharf, with fishermen of several other nationalities. They are employed in fishing with the drag-net.

At Smith's ranch, near the head of Drake's Bay, Marin County, is one Spaniard who, together with two Italians and one Austrian, is engaged in seine and gill-net fishing. The joint catch of these four fishermen will probably equal 50,000 pounds per annum. They send their fish every morning to Marshall's, from which place these men came to Drake's Bay, and whither they will return as soon as the fishing in Tomale's Bay improves. They catch chiefly "smelt."

22. THE GREEK FISHERMEN ON THE PACIFIC COAST.

There are in all fifty-five Greeks employed as fishermen on the Pacific coast of the United States.

Fifty of them live in San Francisco, where, with fishermen of many races, they fish with the drag-net.

At Seattle, Washington Territory, there is a company of three Greeks, who fish with seines along the shore, obtaining young salmon, flounders, &c., which are sold in a stall in the town. During the salmon season these Greeks go to the Columbia River to engage in the salmon fishery. The other two Greeks have settled at Port Madison, Washington Territory.

23. THE AUSTRIAN FISHERMEN ON THE PACIFIC COAST.

In Marin County, California, there is one Austrian engaged in fishing with one Spaniard and two Italians at the head of Drake's Bay.

There are eleven Austrians engaged in fishing in Washington Territory. Three are at New Tacoma. They either salt their fish or ship them fresh to Portland.

At Seattle there are five Austrians who fish with hook and line in the deeper waters of the bay, obtaining halibut, black bass, horse-mackerel, merluch, pollock, tomcod, &c. The remaining three fish at Port Madison, Washington Territory.

24. FRENCH FISHERMEN ON THE PACIFIC COAST.

In Los Angeles County, California, at Wilmington, there are 6 Frenchmen, who combine hook-and-line fishing with the gathering of abalones. They own two boats, the Wild Region and the Josephine, which average about three-fourths of a ton each.

In San Francisco County there are 15 Frenchmen. The remark made concerning the Portuguese in San Francisco will equally apply to the French fishermen of that city.

There are 2 or 3 Frenchmen employed in collecting frogs in Marin, San Mateo, and Kern Counties. These frogs they sell at from $1.75 to $4 per dozen.

In Washington Territory, at Port Madison, there is one Frenchman engaged in fishing. The principal fish sought at that point are perch and flounders, which are dried by the Chinese and Indians. Probably this French fisherman joins them in their work.

On the Columbia River, Oregon, engaged in the salmon fishery, there are 200 Frenchmen, and on the Sacramento and other salmon rivers there are about 50 more Frenchmen.

25. SOUTHERN EUROPEAN FISHERMEN OF SAN FRANCISCO.

A writer in the San Francisco Bulletin in May or June, 1875, thus described the European fishermen of that city:

"Their dark faces and sanguinary shirts, their hoarse voices, and, above all, their picturesque lateen sails have a decided flavor in them of foreign waters. In fact, almost to a man, at some time

they have sailed or fished upon the Mediterranean. They are mostly Italians, but among them are Portuguese, Slavonians, Greeks, and Austrians. They all understand and can converse in Italian. Although many of them belong to benevolent societies pertaining to their different races, they are all bound together in what might be called the Fishermen's Union. It is a protective association. Each boat has certain rights and privileges not to be infringed upon by others. Each man contributes toward a common fund for the purpose of protecting the fishermen's interests, and to aid the families of deceased members. The association has regular attorneys, who are supposed to look after its interests. They have a place of meeting at No. 32 Clay street, called the Fishermen's House. Here is a cheap restaurant, where the single fishermen board, an indispensable bar, card tables, a billiard table, and a few beds. When anything unusual occurs among them they assemble here and hold a grand pow-pow.

"There are about two hundred boats and nearly 1,000 men engaged in the business. The great number of their boats now lie in a slip near the Front-street wharf, their old place at the foot of Clay street having been recently improved for a steamer landing. Each boat pays $1 per week for wharfage. Their present quarters satisfies them very well now, but they are fearful that the winter northers sweeping in from the Golden Gate will destroy their boats. Their attorneys are endeavoring to have their quarters improved. Many of the fishermen are married and have families here, but the majority are single men, who intend some time to return to their native country, of course, rich. The married men live on Telegraph Hill, in houses perched like gulls' nests on the heights above the water. The houses, though small, are kept very neat. The fishermen's wives are usually bright-eyed, little Italian women, but some have become cosmopolitan in their tastes and taken to wife whatever offered itself. The boats, as a general thing, make one fishing trip per day, and the profits per boat are from $10 to $30, and even $100 is sometimes realized from a single trip.

"About forty boats are engaged in fishing without the bay, and go as far as the Farallone Islands. These boats, of course, make longer trips, and the receipts per trip, if not the profits per day, are greater. The boats which fish in the bay use the seine almost exclusively, but outside it is used but little, the hook taking its place. The men are very reckless, and their lateen sails are often seen beating against a wind when our pleasure yachts are glad to find a harbor. It is not infrequently that one of these boats sails out early in the morning and never returns nor is heard from again. They are a very industrious people, and some of them are at work at all hours of the day and night. Some put out in the small hours of the morning and return at night; others put out in the evening and return when the sun is well up. Sundays they mend their nets and rig their boats. They are nearly all nominally Catholics, but their religion does not interfere with secular duties in the least. If you wish to see the whole set forget their English in an instant and appear as inscrutable as the sphinx, go among them as a missionary and inquire as to their spiritual condition. They make considerable money and live well. Macaroni, they find, is not an all-sufficient in this climate, and they take very kindly to pork and beef. As is usually the case with fishermen, they have a great contempt for fish and never eat it when anything better is to be had. They use a great deal of tobacco, chewing and smoking, and a great deal of liquor.

"They are the heaviest consumers of our California wines, although on extra occasions they indulge in imported articles. In spite of this liberal use of wine and whisky, one rarely sees a drunkard or a noisy man among them. Around the dock and upon the water they have a business-like air and say but little, but at the fishermen's house they appear very different. At the latter place they are noisy and merry and often drunk. Few of them, except the masters of the larger boats which cruise outside of the bay, are citizens. The boats are registered, and, according to

Chinese fishing village, California.

From a sketch in London Graphic, 1884.

our maritime laws, it is necessary that the masters should be naturalized when not native citizens. A few years ago, before owners of boats thought well enough of the country to adopt it as their own, rather than be naturalized they would hire some lazy Yankee or Irishman to cruise with them as 'master.' They paid as high as $100 per month, and all that was required of the figure-head was to keep out of the way and furnish his own whisky. But times have changed. They have found that California is not such a bad place after all, and the supply of real masters is now equal to the demand."

26. THE CHINESE FISHERMEN OF THE PACIFIC COAST.

FROM NOTES BY DAVID S. JORDAN.

On the Pacific coast of the United States, and on the banks of rivers on which salmon canneries are established, there are about 4000 Chinamen engaged in catching fish, or in fish-drying and fish-canning. Of this number about 463 Chinamen are living in the maritime counties of California and Washington Territory, while the remainder are engaged in the salmon canneries, probably not less than 3000 being employed on the Columbia River, Oregon, and about 600 on the Sacramento and other salmon rivers.

SAN DIEGO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA.—In San Diego County, California, are thirty-seven Chinese. They settled there about the year 1870, and by the use of very fine-meshed seines have driven out the Italians who were there at the time of their advent. They are divided into eight companies, which are scattered along the coast between San Diego and Cerros Islands. At San Diego all the fishermen, excepting four Americans and their employés, are Chinamen. Upon their arrival they went to work at catching fish, which they salted and dried; these they shipped to China, their methods of fishing being probably the same as those now in use in China. They seek especially sheltered bays, which they sweep clean with their seines, usually commencing operations in the early part of the night. Some of the Chinamen live entirely on their boats, visiting their houses on land perhaps once a month. The upsetting of their junks* is a matter of frequent occurrence, the result usually being a reduction in the number of that particular colony to which the junk belonged. The Chinese take risks in stormy weather which no white man in this region would dream of taking. The two colonies here were established with a special view to fishing—one at Roseville in 1875, and the other in the town of San Diego about 1870. The latter consists of about a dozen houses, arranged in two rows, nearly at right angles to each other, while in close proximity are stagnant pools, stands for drying fish, outhouses and piles of rotten fish, and all manner of abominations full of crawling maggots, all of which tend to give the colony an extremely unsavory odor. The head man of the colony furnishes the greater part of the fishing capital, and the fishermen repay him out of the proceeds of their catches. The Chinese of these two colonies use seines, imported from China, about 300 by 10 feet, with a 1-inch mesh. When new these are worth about $100. Along the coast of this county are gathered, principally by the Chinese, about 700 tons of abalones. North of Cerros Island the Chinamen have stripped the whole coast of this shell. Until lately the Mexican Government paid no attention to the depredations of the Chinamen, but now a license of $60 for each boat is charged upon all coming from the United States in search of abalones, and to collect that tax a Mexican consulate has been established at San Diego. The origin of the abalone business was as follows: The Chinese in China dry the flesh of *Haliotis* (or some other related genus), and, finding that animal in California, they commenced the same industry there about the year 1873. Later, white men began to gather up the shells thrown away by the Chinamen, and the use of them for ornaments soon created a demand for them. Thereupon the China-

* This colony in 1881 owned four large junks, besides three smaller boats.

men saved the shells, and for three years or so the abalone-shell business has been very extensive. By the excessive working of this industry the abalones have been nearly exterminated in all accessible places, and American dealers now ship Chinamen to the neighboring islands difficult of access, receiving in return the shells, the Chinese retaining the meat.

LOS ANGELES AND VENTURA COUNTIES, CALIFORNIA.—In Los Angeles County are about 30 Chinamen, all of whom are engaged in collecting abalones. They ship to San Francisco annually about 150 tons of shells.

In Ventura County, at Point Magie, 9 miles south of Hueneme, is a colony of 6 Chinamen. They settled there in 1877. Two of this number were recently drowned by the upsetting of a junk.

At San Buenaventura there are a few Chinese engaged in fishing from the wharves.

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA.—There are about 25 Chinamen in Santa Barbara County engaged in fishing. At Goleta there is a party of 3 employed in fishing with the seine. Many colonies of Chinamen are transported to the neighboring islands in the schooner Surprise, belonging to Rogers Brothers, for the purpose of collecting abalones, the meat from which they salt, dry, and ship to China, paying for their transportation to and from the islands with shells. On the Santa Cruz Islands as great a quantity as 50,000 pounds of fish have been caught in a season by Chinamen.

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA.—At Port Harford, San Luis Obispo County, there is a colony of 8 Chinamen, 6 men and 2 women, and at San Simeon and other places there are 50 Chinamen engaged in collecting abalones, the shells of which they ship to San Francisco, retaining the meat for shipment as food.

MONTEREY COUNTY, CALIFORNIA.—There are two extensive colonies in Monterey County, one at Pescadero, the other at Punta Alones. The colony at the former place, which is in the northwest corner of Carmelo Bay, was established in 1868, and is composed of 40 persons, living in eight houses. A considerable proportion of these are fishermen. The others attend to housework and to drying and preparing the fish. They use boats built by themselves, obtaining at Soquel anchovies for bait.

Spaniards, who never fish, are hired to cart the fish from the boats to the drying shores and, again, when dry and prepared, to the point of shipment.

The colony at Punta Alones, which is a mile and a half west of Monterey, settled there in 1864 and consists of 25 fishermen. This is a somewhat larger colony than the one at Pescadero. Some of the women here go fishing with the men. Others stay at home and dress the fish, which operation is aided by a heavy hatchet-like knife. One of the Chinamen at Punta Alones is an American citizen and speaks English well. Others have been hotel cooks. This colony compares favorably with any other on the coast. They ship daily to San Francisco, in fine weather, from 200 to 800 pounds of fish. The members of this colony, as well as those at Pescadero, dry and ship to China an unknown quantity of abalone meat and sell the shells. At certain seasons they also dry many tons of different devil-fish, squids, &c.

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY, CALIFORNIA.—Between Soquel and Aptos, Santa Cruz County, is a large colony of Chinese. There are about 50 of them, all men and all engaged in fishing. They ship to San Francisco and to San José direct, especially in summer. Those not so shipped are sent to Soquel, whence they are taken to San Francisco by steamer. The Soquel fishermen make great complaint of the violation of the fish laws by the Chinese, as the latter use fine-meshed seines and take large quantities of young flounders and shad, which are never returned to the water, the

Chinese caring nothing for the future fisheries. These fish are either salted and dried, or are left to spoil on the beach. The waste is said to be enormous.

SAN MATEO AND SAN FRANCISCO COUNTIES, CALIFORNIA.—In the town of San Mateo is a company of 7 Chinamen. They fish with seines and ship their fish to San Francisco or peddle them fresh in the neighborhood.

In San Francisco County the Chinese fishermen devote their attention to catching shrimp with purse-nets. With the shrimp small fish of other species are taken and afterwards salted and dried. At Bay View there is a Chinese colony consisting of about 24 men, who, with a hundred seines and eleven junks, are engaged in shrimping. There is another colony of 10 Chinamen 2 miles farther south. The Chinamen arrange the large shrimp, after removing the carapace, on two sticks of cane placed parallel to each other; these sticks passing through the flesh of the shrimp. These they sell for 30 cents per pound. Others are sold with the carapace and legs removed, simply as meats. The total catch of shrimp and prawn for this county is estimated at 30,000 pounds.

In former years the Chinamen in San Francisco County were accustomed to eat shark fins, both fresh and dried, which were by them esteemed a great delicacy. The entire business of shrimping was then in the hands of the Chinese. Their operations extended from Mare Island to Angel Island. The bulk of the shrimp caught by the Chinese with their fine-meshed nets was shipped to China in sacks. Large quantities of shrimp were sold also to oyster dealers in San Francisco who, after boiling them, would set them before their customers whilst waiting for oysters, thus to temporarily satisfy their appetites. The shells of the shrimp were shipped by Chinamen to China, who paid to the owners of their fishing-grounds a tax of from 50 cents to $1 a month. They also used to catch sturgeon, from whose backbone they would pull with a hook the inside nerve; this, which resembles a piece of macaroni and is nearly 3 feet long, is dried and shipped to China as a rare tid-bit for the epicures.

In 1876 the Italian Fishermen's Union of San Francisco addressed a letter to one of the State Senators, the main object of which was to direct attention to the ruinous methods employed in fishing by the Chinese, their total disregard of the size of the fish they caught, and their waste of all the sturgeon they took, excepting the one nerve in the back above referred to. They fished so excessively that often they would ship to China as much as $12,000 worth of shrimp and dried fish per month. The Italians, therefore, asked that the Chinese fishermen be compelled to adopt a system less destructive.

ALAMEDA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA.—In Alameda County there were established in 1870 Chinese fishing colonies which are now deserted. These fisheries were principally for the capture of smelt and herring from the wharf, which they carried on by the aid of very fine square nets, from which not even the very smallest minnows could escape. They would drop their net about every twenty minutes; when hauled up, a boat would be pushed out under the net, and the contents of the net dumped into the boat. Thousands were thus taken every day.

MARIN COUNTY, CALIFORNIA.—Near Point San Pedro, Marin County, there are two colonies of Chinese, numbering in all about 112 persons, who fish for shrimp. These they ship to San Francisco, after having dried them on the hill-sides and threshed them, in Chinese style, in order to separate the hull from the meat.

As will have been noticed, the peculiarity in the construction of the nets used by the Chinamen is that the meshes are extremely fine, the end in view being the capture of all fish, large and small, young and old; and many complaints have been made regarding their use of this style of net, especially by the fishermen at Soquel, Santa Cruz County.

AVARICE OF CHINESE FISHERMEN.—With a view to illustrate the extreme avarice of the Chinese fishermen, as shown by their exclusive use of very fine-meshed nets, it may be stated here that the Mexican Government has found it necessary to station a consul at San Diego who is instructed to charge every boat coming in search of abalones $60 per annum, their depredations in this fishery having been so extensive as to almost exterminate the species.

SURF-FISHING.—The peculiar method of surf-fishing at Punta Alones and Pescadero in vogue amongst the Chinamen is one entirely unknown to American fishermen, and is described by Professor Jordan, as follows: "At Punta Alones and Pescadero the Chinese fishermen carry on a fishery for the capture of surf-fish [*Embiotoca lateralis*, *Damalichthys vacca*, &c.], and their methods, being characteristically oriental, are of much interest to a stranger. The gill-nets are placed among the kelp-covered rocks, not far from shore, and the boat goes around among the nets to frighten the fish into them. The old man plies the oar, sculling the boat. The young man stands in the bow, with a long pole, which he throws into the water at such an angle that it returns to him. The woman sits in the middle of the boat, with the baby strapped on her back. She is armed with two drum-sticks, with which she keeps up an infernal racket by hammering on the seat in front of her. This is supposed to frighten the fish so that they frantically plunge into the nets. Occasionally this is varied by the woman taking the oar and the old man the drum-sticks."

SHRIMP AND ABALONE FISHERIES.—The principal fishing industries engaged in by the Chinese are the capture and preparation of shrimps and abalones. The greater part of the shrimp are dried, threshed, and sent to market. The hulls are shipped to China and sold at $20 a ton for manure. They are considered by the Chinese to be an excellent fertilizer.

A minor occupation of the Chinese is that of collecting seaweed.

A colony of Chinamen, numbering perhaps twenty-five men, is located at San Pablo, near the mouth of the Sacramento River, on the bay southwest of San Pablo. They are engaged in shrimp fishing, their methods being the same as those employed by the Chinamen about San Francisco.

FISHERMEN'S HOUSES.—The houses of the Chinese colony at Roseville, San Diego, number about ten. They are low, unpainted, dirty-looking buildings, and are surrounded by hen-coops, whose occupants are fed, to a great extent, upon the small fish which the Chinese capture in their fine-meshed seines.

CHARACTERISTICS OF CALIFORNIAN CHINESE.—It is noteworthy that the Chinese, perhaps in mistrust of their own race, never consign their fish to Chinese dealers in the cities, preferring to transact business with the Americans.

A writer in the San Francisco Weekly Bulletin of January 27, 1871, says of the Chinese fishermen of California:

"The Chinese fisherman in China is very different from the Chinese fisherman of California and far above him in equipments, habits, and scale of work. Confident of his seamanship and skill he dashes around in his lateen-sailed junk in a reckless manner, and in hours of recreation indulges his fondness for gambling, while the latter tugs painfully at the oar and finds his brother fishermen too poor to gamble with him. The Chinaman is a good sailor in his native craft, but in other vessels, when difficult duties are to be performed, needs some one to direct him constantly.

"On the southern bank, at the entrance of the San Antonio Creek, is a small Chinese settlement, consisting of some dozen wooden houses, called China Point. The shores of the creek are covered with smelt and herring, drying in the sun preparatory to being compressed into compact bales to be shipped away; the nets, patched and old, are lying around everywhere drying in the sun, and the whole is dirty, filthy, and ill-smelling.

"The fisherman's boat is a long, unwieldy, clumsily-constructed craft, with heavy, ill-shaped

oars. They are not shipped in double rowlocks after the American method, but work on a single pin which passes through the loom of the oar. With the nets piled up in the stern, and the crew at their places, the cockswain, using a large steering-oar, guides the boat to the long flats of the Oakland and Alameda shores, the principal fishing grounds, where the shoals of smelt and herring, which abound here at high water, are encircled by the nets. Stationary nets and seines are also used—one to lay all night, or for some hours, and the other for immediate and active work. At sunset, after drawing the nets, they row home and spread the catch on the shore, ready for the next day's drying. The journey home is accompanied by a song, if the catch has been a large one, or only a grunt, if poor.

"The shores of Islay Creek are the choice of the Chinese fishermen who live on the San Francisco side of the bay. Clams, smelt, and shrimp constitute their catch at low tide, and their manner of procuring the former is extremely remarkable. Either a long plank or ten square pieces of wood are placed under the feet, and using them in the same manner as snow-shoes the fisherman makes very fair time over the mud. His basket or light boat is pushed along to receive the shell-fish as he picks them up, and before the tide has quit falling his shrimp-net does good service. Their cabins border on the creek, and have the same characteristics, though perhaps on a larger scale, as their fellows at the entrance to the San Antonio. But in addition to preparing fish for transportation to China, they supply, in a great measure, the market in the Chinese quarter, but their fishing ground has not the same size or quality of smelt that are found over the flats on the other side." *

CHINESE IN WASHINGTON TERRITORY.—In Washington Territory there are thirty-three Chinamen engaged in fishing. About Cape Flattery and Quartermaster's Harbor there are twelve; near Port Madison there are fifteen engaged in drying fish. They also buy from the Indians. Especial value is set upon flounders, but salmon are held by them in small esteem. At Port Gamble and Ludlow there are six Chinamen who occupy their time in fishing from the wharves. They catch a large quantity of dogfish.

CHINESE IN THE SALMON CANNERIES OF OREGON.—On the Columbia River, Oregon, as many as three thousand Chinamen are engaged in the salmon canneries.

After the salmon have been thrown into a heap on the wharf, the Chinamen cut off the heads, tails, and fins, and remove the viscera. Some Chinamen become so expert at this branch of the work that they can thus clean 1,700 fish per day. After the fish have been washed and cut into sections they are split into three pieces by the Chinamen, one piece being large enough to fill a can, the others smaller. These fragments are placed on tables, at which the Chinamen stand ready to pack them. Other Chinamen put on the covers, while yet others solder them, where this operation is not done by machinery.

The Chinese thus do the bulk of the work at the salmon canneries. The supervisors, foremen, and bookkeepers are, however, white men. The fish-cutters, if expert, receive from $40 to $45 per month. The majority receive $1 per day of eleven hours, and work as required; that is, leaving

* WORSE THAN SEA-LIONS.—Our legislature has attempted to protect the salmon in our rivers by repealing the law protecting seals. It is asserted that the seals destroy the salmon which come down annually from the upper rivers to salt water. This may be true, but opinions are conflicting. However that may be, there is an enemy to the salmon far more dangerous than the round-eyed seal and that is the busy Chinaman. Only a few days since we watched the *modus operandi* of catching fish in our San Joaquin. Two Chinese junks, or schooners, appeared in the river, each holding an end of a remarkably fine net. The schooners then separate and sweep the waters with the net to the shore. Fish of all sizes are thus caught, and none, not the smallest salmon trout, are ever returned to the water. Those too small for market are thrown on the shore or fed to poultry. It is said by those familiar with the Chinaman's mode of fishing that these fine nets leave no young salmon behind, and are far greater enemies to their propagation than seals.—[Antioch Ledger, California, July 6, 1876.

and coming at any hour that may be set, time during which they are actually at work alone being counted. No other race of people could work at such rates and upon such terms as these, and in the present state of things but for Chinese labor the canneries must needs be closed. They come in April and leave in August, and very few return. They are employed directly and without the aid of any agent. The Chinese, as a rule, work very faithfully. They are never engaged in any drunken riot, and their work is uniform. On the other hand, they are not devoted to their employers. If dissatisfied, "they are the hardest class in the world to manage." They would "use a knife for two cents." If their pay should exceed a day's indebtedness, they would very probably resort to foul, mean work. They are inveterate gamblers, and their wages, as earned, go from one to another to pay their gaming debts. A Chinaman dare not fish in the Columbia, it being an understood thing that he would die for his sport. They are only tolerated because they will work for such low wages. Each cannery employs from one hundred to two hundred Chinamen.

27. MISCELLANEOUS FISHERMEN OF THE PACIFIC COAST.

There are fifty Slavonians on the Pacific coast of the United States, employed as fishermen. They all live in San Francisco.

In Los Angeles County, California, there is one Chilian fisherman. In the same county one Irishman is engaged in fishing.

In Santa Cruz County, at Soquel, there are four German fishermen.

At New Tacoma, Washington Territory, there is one negro fisherman.

28. THE ARCTIC WHALEMEN OF SAN FRANCISCO.

Professor Jordan says, concerning the men on the Arctic whaling fleet, that the crews of all the vessels, whether owned East or on the Pacific coast, are made up in San Francisco. The officers are usually American, but there are very few American foremast hands. When an American ships before the mast, he seldom stays there long; he either gets aft or leaves disgusted. Portuguese, Scandinavians, and Germans form the bulk of the crew, and are all very hardy, and like the business. Now and then an Irishman is inveigled into the service by the boarding-house keepers; but Irishmen are never at home on a whaler.

29. THE FISHERMEN OF THE COLUMBIA RIVER.

There are upwards of 2,500 men engaged in salmon fishing on the Lower Columbia; about half of them in Astoria, the rest at the other cannery towns. A few of them, not one-tenth, live permanently in the towns where employed; the rest come from the interior, from San Francisco, and from the crews of various vessels along the coast. They come to the Columbia in April and leave in August, perhaps not half of them returning the next year. Some of them, especially Scandinavians, own small farms in the interior of Oregon and Washington. Many of the Italians and Greeks fish in San Francisco Bay when not upon the Columbia.

As to nationalities, exact information is unattainable. Looking over various lists of names and making inquiries indicate the preponderance of Scandinavians and Italians, with Greeks, French, Finns, Irish, and a few Americans. No Chinamen are employed in this fishery, though they work in the canneries. There are very few Indian fishermen on the Lower Columbia, none of them of pure blood.

About one-third of the men are married, and two-thirds of these, chiefly Scandinavians and

Finns, lead sober, industrious lives; the rest are, as a whole, a reckless and improvident set of men, spending their money as fast as earned upon drink and prostitutes. The proprietor of a "dive" in Astoria is said to have begun a short time since with nothing, and to be now worth $30,000, his establishment being chiefly frequented by fishermen. Many have not enough left at the end of the season to pay their debts and to get away. Many of them, therefore, leave their debts unpaid.

Most of the men board in various establishments fitted up as fishermen's boarding-houses. These are of many grades, the usual rate being $5 per week.

The few fishermen who can read peruse chiefly the Police Gazette and similar publications, the sale of which on the Pacific coast is far greater in proportion than on the Atlantic.

30. THE INDIAN FISHERMEN ON THE PACIFIC COAST.

There are at present no Indian fishermen employed on the coast of California, although certain tribes living inland, for instance the McCloud Indians, depend largely upon the fisheries for support.

Jordan has observed that in earlier times, before the settlement of California by white men, the Indians of the coast must have subsisted on fish to a very large extent. Spines of sharks and rays are found among the Indian remains on the Santa Barbara Islands, and some are thought to have been used for fish-hooks. Fish-bones are found in the refuse heaps of kitchen leavings on Santa Cruz Islands, where the inhabitants must have lived chiefly on fishes and mollusks. The Santa Barbara Islands give evidence of having been once densely populated. Scarcely anything eatable now grows above tide marks.

At the present time the Indian fishermen on the Pacific coast are all seated in Washington Territory and Oregon. There are about 380 of them scattered in groups throughout those regions. Two hundred Indians are employed in the Oregon salmon fishery.

At New Tacoma, Wash., are twenty Indians engaged in fishing for dog-fish, the oil of which is rendered chiefly in kettles.

At Steilacoom are about twenty Indians (Siwashes). They do not, to any extent, sell their fish, but reserve them for their own consumption.

Near Seattle are thirty Indians who fish chiefly for salmon-trout (*Salvelinus*), of which they bring boat-loads almost daily into the town.

Twenty Indian fishermen have been recorded from Port Madison.

In the northeast part of the sound, at Utsaladdy, are twenty Indians engaged in salmon and dog-fish fishing.

Ten Indian fishermen live at Muckilteo.

At Port Gamble are twenty Indians (Siwashes) engaged in fishing for dog-fish, and other small sharks. The oil is rendered by putting the livers into wooden troughs, into which hot stones are thrown; finally the oil is drained off.

Near New Dungeness, on the way toward Cape Flattery, are some ten Indians engaged in fishing for dog-fish.

At Neah Bay there is a considerable reservation of about twenty Indians, who are exclusively engaged in fishing and sealing.

31. THE M'CLOUD RIVER INDIANS OF CALIFORNIA.

Concerning the McCloud River Indians, who are emphatically a race of fishermen, Mr. Livingston Stone, of the United States Fish Commission, writes as follows:

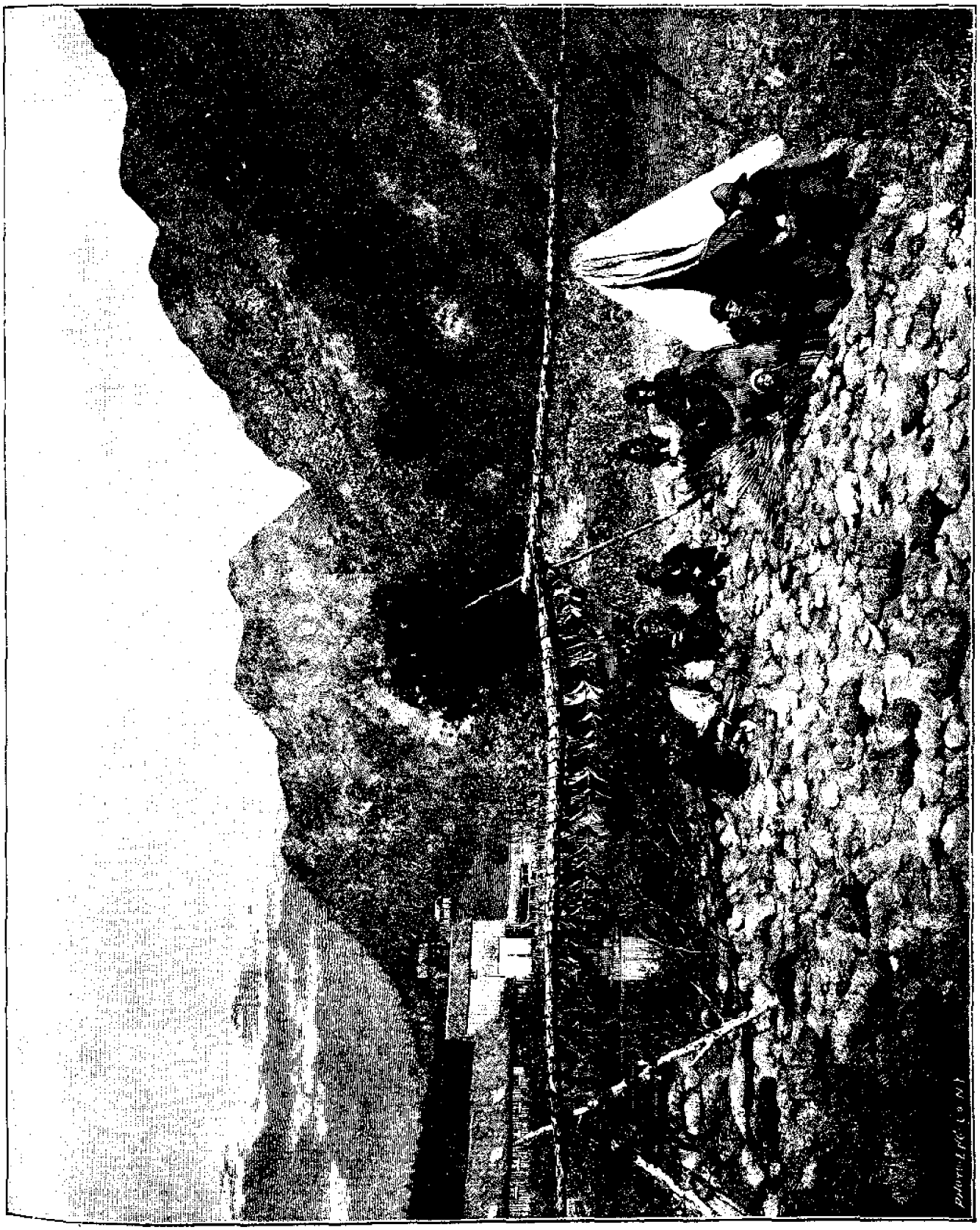
"The Indians themselves are a good-featured, hardy, but indolent race. I found them always

pleasant, genial, and sociable, though, like other Indians, very sensitive when their pride was wounded. They at first adopted the plan of ordering all white men out of their country, and were the last of the California Indians to yield to the encroachments of civilization. Even now they are not slow to say to the white stranger, 'These are my lands,' and 'These are my salmon'; but the stern consequences of conflict with the whites have taught them to abstain from any violent indication of their rights. They still always revenge a wrong inflicted on them by their own people, and deem it a duty to avenge the murder of one of their kindred, but I think they are a well-disposed race by nature, and have no malice naturally in their hearts toward any one, and will not injure any one who does not first injure them. Every one told me, before my arrival and during my stay on the McCloud, that the Indians would steal everything that they could lay their hands on. I am glad that this opportunity is afforded me of bearing testimony to the contrary, which I wish to do very emphatically. I would trust the McCloud Indians with anything. We used to leave our things every day around the house, and even down on the river-bank, for weeks together, where the Indians could have stolen them with perfect safety, and where they would not have remained ten minutes *in a white man's settlement*, and yet I do not know of a single instance of theft of the smallest thing on their part, during all our stay of two months among them. On the contrary, in one instance, an Indian traveled six miles one hot day to return me a watch-guard, which he found in the pocket of a garment which I sold him, and which he might have kept with perfect impunity. And on another occasion, on the arrival of some gold coin, when I had reason to expect an attack from *white men*, I gave the gold to one of my Indians, and told him that I depended on him to protect that and me till morning. I slept soundly, and the next morning the faithful Indian handed me the gold just as I gave it to him. I wish on these accounts to be very emphatic in saying that the charges against these Indians of being a race of thieves, are untrue and unjust.

"With all their good traits, however, murder did not seem to have the obnoxious character that it has among more enlightened people. Almost every McCloud Indian we met had killed one or more men, white or red, in the course of his life, but it was usually because they were goaded to it by ungovernable jealousy or revenge. It was not from motives of gain or causeless malice.

"The McCloud Indians live and sleep in the open air in the summer. In the rainy season they build wigwams or huts of driftwood and dry logs, which they inhabit pretty comfortably through the winter. In the summer and fall they live mainly on the salmon and trout which they spear. In the winter they live on the salmon which they catch and dry in the fall, and on acorns, which they gather in great quantities in the woods. They hunt with bows and arrows, with which they occasionally kill a bear, though a few of the more enterprising have rifles. They trap a very little, but the salmon of the river are so abundant that they are not obliged to resort to hunting and trapping at all, and do not do much of either.

"I have written this long account of the McCloud River Indians partly because their presence here is so singularly connected with the abundance of the salmon in the Sacramento River. Had white men come here, and required the salmon for food, this main artery of the supply system of the river would have been stopped; or had white men come and engaged in mining, as they have done on the Yuba and on the Feather and American Rivers, the spawning-beds would have been covered with mud and ruined, as in those rivers, and in less than three years the salmon supply of the Sacramento would have shown a vast decrease. The presence of the Indians, therefore, in so far as it implies the absence of the whites, is the great protection of the supply of the Sacramento salmon."



McCloud River Indians of California. Salmon drying on poles.
From a photograph by U. S. Fish Commission.

32. THE FISHERMEN OF THE GREAT LAKES.

FROM NOTES BY LUDWIG KUMLIEN.

NATIONALITIES.—Very many nationalities are represented among the fishermen of the Great Lakes, nor is the diversity of origin confined to the fishermen alone, for many of the owners and managers of the fisheries are of foreign birth. Next to the native Americans, Germans and Canadian-French predominate. The Scandinavian nations are also well represented. In some localities, particularly at the west end of Lake Superior and in the vicinity of Sault de Ste. Marie, the Straits of Mackinac, and Saginaw Bay, many pure and half-breed Indians are employed. At Sault de Ste. Marie, Indians are the principal fishermen. In the majority of the towns the nationalities are very much mixed. A catalogue would include Americans, English, French, Germans, Norwegians, Swedes, Russians, Poles, Belgians, Swiss, Dutch, Irish, and Indians. At the east end of Lake Ontario, however, all are either Americans or Canadian-French. In Green Bay the Swedes and Norwegians are said to be the most successful fishermen. With the Indians fishing is, of course, an hereditary profession, handed down from father to son. The western portion of the lake region has been so recently settled, and by so many different classes and nationalities, that it is highly probable that the fathers and grandfathers of the majority of the present fishermen were engaged in other occupations. On the west shore of Lake Michigan, however, especially between Porte des Mortes and Manitowoc, among the French-Canadians fishing is hereditary. The boys begin to assist while yet mere children, and naturally become expert boatmen and skillful fishermen. The fishermen at the east end of Lake Ontario, about Chaumont, Sackett's Harbor, and Henderson Bay, are said to have come originally from Connecticut, where they had been fishermen, and were the first to introduce pound and trap nets.

HEALTH.—As a class the fishermen are strong and robust, and well suited for their occupation. Fishing is considered a healthful pursuit in all respects, and, aside from the disasters caused by storms, conducive to longevity. Very many of the better class of fishermen are married, and in numerous instances favored with remarkably large families.

DISASTERS.—The sudden and violent storms which visit the lakes, particularly in fall, cause many serious disasters, resulting frequently in loss of life. The number of losses, however, is smaller than one would suppose at first thought, for it must be taken into consideration that the fishermen are expert seamen, and cautious withal, and that as a rule their boats are stanch and seaworthy. During the last decade only about seventy-five from all the lake towns have been drowned. The heaviest losses have occurred at Saint Joseph, near the head of Lake Michigan. On the 29th of April, 1875, eleven boats were fishing far from shore, a light wind blowing from the northeast. Suddenly it veered to the northwest, and a violent squall struck the fleet. Some of the boats were returning homeward with all canvas up, and were unable to drop their sails before the storm struck them. Four went down, carrying with them eleven fishermen. Few of the fleet reached shore in safety; some were driven upon the beach, many miles from their harbor, and nearly all sustained some injury, besides the loss of nets, and sails and other parts of apparatus and rigging. From 1869 to 1876 twenty-one lives were lost in all. These disasters, together with the scarcity of fish and low prices, have discouraged many fishermen in this locality, and they have left fishing to follow other occupations.

At Milwaukee as many as twenty fishermen have perished within 15 years. They were accustomed to visit fishing grounds distant from fifteen to forty miles from shore, in boats, frequently remaining two days and nights. The sudden storms oftentimes bewildered them, especially

when occurring in the darkness of night, and their boats were driven far out into the lake where they could not live, or were cast upon a dangerous shore.

Fishermen are sometimes drowned in winter while fishing on the ice, either through carelessness in approaching the holes which are made when setting and hauling nets, or in venturesome expeditions over ice too thin to bear their weight. One man perished thus near Bayfield, Lake Superior, in 1878, and another in 1879 at the Gull Islands, at the entrance of Green Bay.

FISHING VILLAGES.—As a large proportion of the fishermen live in villages and cities whose interest in the fisheries is of minor importance, they dwell in houses in nowise different from those of the same class of men engaged in other pursuits, partake of the same food and comport themselves in essentially the same manner. In some localities, however, fishing is the only important industry, and in these places it is possible to trace some peculiarities in the character and surroundings of the fishermen. Some such villages exist in Green Bay, particularly on the west shore, north of Cedar River. The fishermen dwelling here, as a rule, are well fitted for their occupation, temperate and industrious. The gains of many, however, for the past five years, have been hardly sufficient to support them, fish having been scarce and prices low. Their houses, which are barely comfortable, are always built near the fishery, close to the beach. A few have cleared fields of considerable extent around their dwellings, but the majority have tilled only sufficient land on which to raise potatoes and some other vegetables. A few miles north of Menominee the road terminates northward, and the only communication by land between the villages is by an imperfectly marked trail leading through an almost impenetrable pine forest. Communication with the outside world is carried on entirely by water. The Menominee dealers send boats along the shore every day during the height of the season and gather up such fresh fish as the fishermen may have for sale. They stop at every fishery and the fishermen bring out their fish in the pound boats. The fish are weighed and the dealers give receipts stating the number of pounds, the kind, and price, and at the next trip bring the requisite amount of money. At these times the fishermen send to town for whatever supplies they need, receiving them at the next visit of the dealers' boats.

At Green Bay City and the southern end of Green Bay generally, many fishermen are well-to-do and several in very good circumstances. Some others, as one might expect, on account of the variety of nationalities, are shiftless, and seem to have little tact in providing for their families. In many cases their gains are sufficiently large to enable them to live well if they but used judgment in expending them. Nearly all the fishermen are land-owners to some extent, several possessing valuable farms in addition to their fisheries.

At Two Rivers, situated on the west shore of Lake Michigan, on the Green Bay peninsula, the fishing population—nearly all French-Canadians—live in one locality at the mouth of the two rivers, forming quite a colony, known in the vicinity as "Canada." The men are apt to be extravagant during profitable seasons, taking little thought for the future. It has been stated that, as a class, the fishermen of this locality were formerly quite intemperate, but recently a decided improvement has taken place in this respect.

In the vicinity of the Straits of Mackinac the fishermen are of all grades, nationalities, and conditions. The least industrious, perhaps, are the French gill-netters. About two-thirds of them barely succeed in gaining a livelihood. They sometimes allow their nets to remain in the water for several weeks untouched, the fish caught in them becoming putrid. During seasons of plenty these, as well as some in other localities, are apt to indulge in extravagant living and comparative idleness, returning when their means are expended, to activity and humble living.

The fishermen of Huron are generally considered a better class of men than the Lake Erie

fishermen. The majority have entered the fishing business at a mature age and are less reckless and improvident and more energetic and hardworking than in some other localities. Fishing is not now prosecuted on Sunday as it formerly was in this vicinity.

CREDIT SYSTEM.—The system of credit, until recently in operation in many of the fishing towns, had a demoralizing effect among the fishermen and led to general financial disaster among the out-fitters. It was customary for the capitalists to furnish the fishermen with outfits and provisions on credit and take pay in the fish caught. This system encouraged the fishermen to contract large debts, and to live extravagantly, while they continually looked forward to the time when the capture of fabulous quantities of fish should relieve them of their indebtedness. The out-fitters, on the other hand, discovered in the course of time that the value of the fish caught was frequently less than that of the outfits they furnished, and while out of charity for the fishermen, who were dependent upon them, or for lack of the knowledge necessary to establish a better system, they continued to give unlimited credit, many became involved in financial difficulties which resulted in utter ruin. At present, however, except in a few localities, dealers will not take uncaught fish in security, and finances are in a better condition.

FINANCIAL PROFITS.—It is almost impossible to gather any information in regard to the financial profits of individual fishermen, except of those who receive salaries. In many localities fishing is thought to be becoming less and less profitable every year, while in others the profits are considered to be larger than formerly. The opinions expressed, however, are based so largely upon the success or failure of the individuals furnishing them, rather than upon an average of the profits of all the fisheries of any given locality, that they must be taken with allowance. Moreover, so few statements of the value of the lake fisheries have been published in past years that there is nothing with which to compare the figures obtained for the present report. It must be the work of the next census to make such comparisons and to determine whether the lake fisheries are increasing or decreasing in importance and profitableness. More in regard to this subject will be found in the section of this report which treats of the methods of the fisheries.