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ADVERTISEMENTS

Not exceeding 16 lines, neatly inserted three times for one dollar, and 25 cents for every succeeding publication; those of greater length in the same proportion—Letters to the Editor must be post paid.

The Great Indian—It appears from the History, that in 1732, Thomas Penn came over as Proprietary, and remained about two years. It has been stated to me that in that time he contracted with Tee dyseung and some others whom the Indians had no right to sell, for a certain sum, the Indian title to all the land to be taken off by a parallel of latitude from any point, as far as the best three men could walk in a day, between sunrise and sunset, from a certain chestnut tree at, or near Bristol, on a north west direction. Great care was used to select the most capable for such a walk. The choice fell on James Yeates, a native of Bucks, a tall slim man, of much agility and speed of foot. 2d, Solomon Jennings, a yankee, a remarkably stout and strong man. 3d, Edward Marshall, a native of Bucks, a noted hunter, chain carrier, &c. I knew him personally well, he was a large, heavy set, strong boned man. The day was appointed and the champions notified. The people collected at what they thought the first 20 miles on Durham road to see them pass. First came Yeates, stepping as light as a feather, accompanied by T. Penn, and attendants on horseback. After him, out of sight, came Jennings, with a strong, steady step—an yet far behind, Edward Marshall, apparently careless, swinging a hatchet in his hand, and eating a dry biscuit—bets run in favour of Yeates.

Marshall took biscuits to support his stomach, and carried a haethet to swing in his hands alternately, that the action in his arms should balance that in his legs—as he was fully determined to beat the others or die in the attempt. He said he first saw Yeates in descending Durham creek, and gained on him.—There he saw Yeates setting on a log very tired—presently he fell off, and gave up the walk. Marshall kept on, and before he reached the Lehigh, overtook and passed Jennings—waded the river at Bethlehem—hurried on faster and faster by where Nazareth stands, to the Wind Gap.—That was as far as the path had been marked for them to walk on, and there was waiting the last collection of people to see if any of the three would reach it by sunset. He only halted for the surveyor to give him a pocket compass, and started again. Three Indian runners were sent after him to see that he walked fair, and how far he went. He then passed to the right of Pocono mountain, the Indians finding it difficult to keep him in sight, till he reached Still Water—and he would have gone a few miles further but for the water.

There he marked a tree, witnessed by three Indians. The distance he had walked between sun and sun, not being on a straight line, and about 30 miles of it through the woods was estimated to be from 100 to 120 miles. He thus won the great prize which was five pounds in money, and 500 acres of land any where in the purchase.

I have been informed that James Yeates, who led the way for the first 30 miles or more, was quite blind when taken out Durham Creek, and lived but three days afterwards. Solomon Jennings did not hold out to cross the Lehigh, never received his health, and lived but a few years. Edward Marshall lived and died on Marshall's island opposite Finicum township, in the Delaware, aged about ninety years. He was a great hunter, and fortunately made a more productive walk than he did for Thomas Penn, for he found a rich silver mine, that rendered him and his family connections affluent; yet he carried the secret, where it was, out of the world with him.

NORTH AMERICAN FISHES.

From an article in the *Edinburgh New Philosophical Journal* of July.

Of the fishes of British North America seas, the most abundant is, at the same time, the most important to man. The cod here hold dominion over all the habitable parts of the ocean, from the outer edges of the great banks of Newfoundland, which are more than 300 miles from land, and more than 60 fathoms deep, to the verges of every creek or cove of the bounding coast, it even ascends into the fresh water.—To support such a mass of living beings, the ocean sends her periodical masses of other living beings; and these in the economy of nature, are next in importance, and, of necessity, in abundance in these seas. Nature furnishes two successive tribes of animals as food for one tribe, and for the three together, this busiest part of the ocean seems to exist.

The Cod.—The cod is accompanied at one season by shoals of myriads of the capelin, and at another by equal hosts of that mollescous animal the cuttlefish, called in Newfoundland the squip. The three animals are migratory, and man, who stations himself on the shores for their combined destruction, conducts his movements according to their migration. By art, he captures annually more than two hundred millions of the cod with the capelin, and one hundred millions with the cuttle fish. On the coast of Labrador, and in the north part of Newfoundland the cod is so abundant, that it is hauled on shore with hues in vast quantities. Thus, by those means, and the use of herrings and shell-fish for bait, along the southern shores of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, there are caught in the British North American Seas, upwards of four hundred millions of cod annually.

There appears to be four varieties or kinds of the cod in these seas; but their history has not been sufficiently attended to, to determine their relations to each other as species or variety.—The first is the *bank cod*, found on the great bank many miles from land, the second is the *shore-cod*, caught in the bays around the shores and in the Gulf of St. Lawrence; the third is the *red-cod*, resembling the rock-cod or red-ware codling of Scotland, caught near the shore;—the fourth and most remarkable, is what may be called the *sea-headed-cod*, from its head resembling that of a seal or dog. The haddock of a large size, is also met with among the proper cod.—All the kinds

approach towards one size, and are two or three weeks otherwise they are caught and dried promiscuously by the fishermen. The bank cod differs from the other varieties in his place of resort, which is almost always on the banks at a distance from land; he is also larger and stouter, with larger scales and spots; his body is of a lighter color, throughout with the spots more generally diffused, and more distinctly marked; his flesh, too, is firmer. The shore cod resembles most the cod in a healthy state on the coasts of Britain and is that of which the greatest quantity is caught owing to its being most conveniently taken; the back is of a dusty brown color; the belly, silvery or yellowish, and the spots in general not remarkably distinct. The red cod is, probably, larger than our rock cod, and is not numerous. The sea-headed-cod is of the same color and size as the shore-cod, and in like manner covered with skin, and it is comparatively rare. The young cod, tom cod, or podley swam in summer in all the harbors and shallow waters.

There are some other differences in the cod, which may partially arise from differences of latitude and of coasts where they are found. Thus, the farther north the less oil is obtained from them, their livers being smaller; and the bank cod yields the least oil of any.

The cod is sometimes caught six feet in length; but there are accounts of its having been taken larger. All the kinds of cod obey the same general laws of migration. They shift according to the changes of temperature in their element, arising from the seasons, and with the supplies of food which invariably accompany these changes. The bank cod seems to be the most stationary.

As we advance farther northward from the Gulf of St. Lawrence, the migrations of cod assume a more decided character, and it strikes in greater abundance. This holds as far north as fishing posts have yet been established on the coast of Labrador. The same applies to the migrations and abundance of the other fishes inhabiting these seas, more especially of those connected with the cod, and they arise together from the same general causes. In the Gulf of St. Lawrence, lat 45 deg. 48 min. particularly along the shores of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Canada, and the adjacent islands, where shell-fish are more abundant than farther to the north and where perhaps, in consequence, more other fishes remain during the winter, the herring arrives in spring, about the same time that it arrives on the coast of Newfoundland and Labrador, in April and May, when the cod, in consequence becomes equally abundant at all places; but afterwards worlds of food arrive on the coasts of Newfoundland and Labrador; first the capelin, over the shores or both these countries and then, again, the cuttle fish, around the shores of Newfoundland; they never failing to bring in with them their hosts of cod, and to retain them at these shores during the summer. Neither the capelin, nor any equivalent, ever appears at the countries farther south, although the cuttle-fish visits, and sometimes in considerable quantities, the east coast of Nova Scotia and Cape Breton; hence the pre-eminence of Newfoundland and Labrador as a fishing station, over every other part of the Northern Hemisphere.

At Labrador, and in the north part of Newfoundland, where the length of the summer is not more than six weeks or two months, the hook and line are often laid aside for the same; for it is necessary that enough of cod should be taken within the first

remainder of the warm weather would not be sufficient to dry it. Once, the cod-fishery, according to the present mode of curing which is, with the exception, by drying the fish in the sun, cannot be carried on farther north than a certain latitude.

The fishery of Newfoundland commences in June, as soon as the capelin appears on the coast, and ends about the beginning of September, when the cuttle fish begins to move off from the shores. The capelin is the bait used during the first month or six weeks, and after that the cuttle fish.

When bait is scarce, considerable numbers of cod are caught by jiggng the jiggers being an artificial bait, with hooks affixed.

The process of curing the cod requires about a month in favorable weather.

Of the four hundred millions and upwards of cod that are taken annually out of the British North American seas, about one hundred millions, or upwards of sixty thousand tons are exported in a dried state by the British, to the warm countries of Europe and America. Of the remainder, a part equal to double that of the British is taken away by the Americans—a part by the French—and a part is consumed in the countries themselves.

It is from the livers of the cod fish, that the cod oil of commerce is made. These are exposed in casks, and sometimes in vats to the sun, and the heat in all these countries sufficient to render them into oil. There is a falling off some years in the average quantity of oil obtained from the cod, throughout the British fisheries; but as the French have the exclusive privilege of fishing at those parts of the island where the different kinds of fish abound most, it is probable that the quantity of oil in proportion to the quantity of fish caught, including all the fisheries, in any one year may not vary much.

As the sun withdraws from the north, the temperature of the surface water decreases; its vivifying principle vanishes, and it is no longer inviting to the free inhabitants of the deep. The cuttle fish begins to retire, and with it man ends his warfare with the cod. All feel the warning, and begin to retire to the surface, holds in their respective elements, leaving the field of industry and summer rejoicing, where air, earth, and water had met in harmony; soon to become the conflicting scene of an arctic winter.

One of the most shameful and almost incredible violations of the law, nay, of the very principles on which our government is based has just happened in the State of New York.—A Mr. Morgan, of the village of Batavia, in that State, was lately seized in his own house, and forcibly carried away, by a party of men, on a charge of being about to publish a book, divulging the secrets of Freemasonry, and as nothing has since been heard of him, it is supposed he has been effectually silenced. A Mr. Miller, who was implicated in the charge was also violently assaulted, but not carried off. The inhabitants of Batavia village have held a meeting in relation to the abduction of Morgan, and passed resolutions to use every exertion to bring the offender to justice.

THOMAS L. MCKENNEY Esq of the War Department, has returned from his visit to the Northwest, as the line are often laid aside for the same; for it is necessary that enough of cod should be taken within the first region of country.