

X.—NOTICES IN REGARD TO THE ABUNDANCE OF FISH ON THE NEW ENGLAND COAST IN FORMER TIMES.

“*An account of two voyages to New England. A description of the country, natives, and creatures. By John Josselyn Gent., 1675.*”

[Reprinted in Collections of the Massachusetts Historical Society, 3d series, III., 1833.]

“The Sea that *Piscina mirabilis* affords us the greatest number, of which I shall begin first with the Whale, a regal fish, as all fish of extraordinary size are accounted; of these there are (as I have said in another place) seven kinds—the Ambergreese *Whale* the chiefest. *Anno Dom.* 1668, the 17 of *July*, there was one of them thrown up on the shore between *Winter-harbour* and *Cape-porpus*, about eight mile from the place where I lived, that was five and fifty foot long. They are Creatures of a vast magnitude and strength.”—(P. 271.)

“The *Sea-hare* is as big as a *Grampus* or *Herrin-hog*, and as white as a sheet. There hath been of them in *Black-Point* Harbour, and some way up the river, but we could never take any of them; several have shot slugs at them, but lost their labor.”

“The sturgeon is a Regal fish, too; I have seen of them that have been sixteen-foot in length; of their sounds they make isinglass, which, melted in the mouth, is excellent to seal letters.”

“The *Sea-horse* or *Morse* is a kind of monster-fish, numerous about the Isle of *Sables*; *i. e.*, the *Sandy Isle*. An amphibious creature, killed for their Teeth and Oyl; never brings more than two at a birth; as also doth the Seal and Manate or Cow-fish, which is supposed to be the Sea-monster.”

“The small *Sword-fish* is very good meat; the *Sea-bat* or *Sea-owl* is a kind of flying fish.”—(P. 272.)

“The *Mackerel*, of which there is choicefull plenty all summer long; in the spring they are ordinarily 18 inches long; afterwards there is none taken but what are smaller.”

“The *Herrin*, which are numerous, they take of them all summer long. In *Anno Dom.* 1670. They were driven back into *Black-Point* Harbour by other great fish that prey upon them so near the shore that they threw themselves (it being high water) upon dry land in such infinite numbers that we might have gone up half-way the leg amongst them for near a quarter of a mile. We used to qualifie a pickled *Herrin* by boiling of him in milk.”

“The *Alewife* is like a *Herrin*, but has a bigger bellie; therefore called an *Alewife*; they come in the end of April into fresh Rivers and Ponds; there hath been taken in two hours' time by two men without any Weyre at all, saving a few stones to stop the passage of the River, above ten thousand.”—(P. 273.)

“The *Basse* is a salt-water fish too, but most an end taken in Rivers where they spawn; there hath been 3,000 *Basse* taken at a set; one writes that the fat in the bone of a *Basse's* head is his braines, which is a lye.”

"The *Salmon* likewise is a Sea-fish, but as the *Basse*, comes into Rivers to spawn. The *Salmon* the first year is a *Salmon-smolt*; The second a *Mort*; The third a *Spraid*; The fourth a *Soar*; The fifth a *Sorrel*; The sixth a *forket-tail*; and the seventh year a *Salmon*. There are another sort of *Salmon* frequent in those parts, called *White Salmon*."

"*Capeling* is a small fish like smelt."—(P. 274.)

"The *Frost-fish* is little bigger than a *Gudgeon*, and are taken in fresh brooks; when the waters are frozen they make a hole in the Ice, about half a yard or yard wide, to which the fish repair in great numbers, where, with small nets bound to a hoop about the bigness of a firkin-hoop, with a staff fastened to it, they take them out of the hole. I have not done with the fish yet, being willing to let you know all of them that are to be seen and caught in the Sea & fresh waters of *New England*; and because I will not tire your patience overmuch, having no occasion to enlarge my discourse, I shall only name them and so conclude."

"Aleport,	Grandpisse,	Porgee,
Albiocre,	Hake,	Remora,
Barracha,	Haddock,	Sea-Ravens,
Barracoutha,	Horse-foot,	Sail-fish,
Blew-fish,	Hallibut,	Scallop,
Bull-head,	Hen-fish,	Scate,
Bur-fish,	Lampre,	Stingray,
Cat-fish,	Limpin,	Sculpin,
Cony-fish,	Lumpe,	Shadd,
Cusk,	Maid,	Spurlin,
Clam,	Monk-fish,	Sheath-fish,
Rock-Cod,	Sea Mullet,	Smelt,
Sea-Cod,	Nun-fish,	Shrimps,
Divers kinds of Crabs,	Perch,	Sprates,
Sea-cucumber,	Polluck,	Star-fish,
Cunner,	Periwinkle,	Sword-fish,
Sea-Darts or Javelins,	Pike,	Thornback,
Flail-fish,	Pilot-fish,	Turbet,
Flounder or Flowke,	Plaice,	The Vlatife or Saw-fish,
Flying-fish,	Porpisse,	Sea-Vrechin,
several kinds,	Prawne,	Sea-Vnicorn."
Sea-Flea,	Purple-fish,	—(Pp. 276, 277.)

New England's rarities discovered in Birds, Beasts, Fishes, Serpents, and Plants of that country, etc. By John Josselyn, Gent. 1672.

[Reprinted in *Archæologia Americana*, vol. IV., 1860.]

"The wobble, an ill-shaped bird; having no long feathers in their pinions, which is the reason they cannot fly; not much unlike the penguin. They are in the spring very fat, or rather oily; but pull'd and garbidg'd, and laid to the fire to roast, they yield not one drop."*—(P. 146.)

"The Sturgeon; of whose sounds is made isinglass,—a kind of glew much used in physick. This fish is here in great plenty, and in some rivers so numerous that it is hazardous for canoes and the like small vessels to pass to and again; as in Pechipsent River to the eastward."—(P. 164.)

"The scarlet muscle. At Paschataway, (a plantation about fifty

* This refers to the Great Auk, *Alca impennis*, now extinct.—S. F. B.

leagues by sea eastward from Boston,) in a small cove called Baker's Cove, there is found this kind of muscle, which hath a purple vein; which, being prickt with a needle, yieldeth a perfect purple or scarlet juice; dying linnen so that no washing will wear it out, but keeps its lustre many years. We mark our handkerchiefs and shirts with it."—(P. 167.)

Blew Fish or Hound-fish, two kinds. Speekled hound-fish, and blew hound-fish, called horse-fish.—(P. 158.)

Blew-fish or horse. I did never see any of them in England. They are big usually as the salmon, and better meat by far. It is common in New England, and esteemed the best sort of fish, next to rock-cod.—(P. 229.)

Advertisements for the inexperienced Planters of New England, or anywhere. Or, the Pathway to experience to erect a Plantation. By Captaine Iohn Smith. London, 1631.

[Reprinted in Collections of the Massachusetts Historical Society, III., 3d series, 1833.]

At the sole charge of foure Merchants of London and my selfe, 1614, within eight weekes sayling I arrived at *Monahigan* an Ile in *America* in 43. degrees 39. minutes of Northerly latitude. Had the fishing for Whale proved as we expected, I had stayed in the country; but we found the plots wee had, so false, and the seasons for fishing and trade by the unskilfulnesse of our Pylot so much mistaken, I was contented, having taken by hookes and lines with fiteene or eighteene men at most, more than 60,000 eod in lesse than a moneth.—(P. 19.)

The seven and thirty passengers miscarrying twice upon the coast of *England*, came so ill-provided, they onely relyed upon the poore company they found, that had lived two yeares by their naked industry, and what the country naturally afforded; it is true, at first there hath bene taken a thousand Bayses at a draught, and more than twelve hogsheads of Herrings in a night; of other fish when and what they would, when they had meanes; but wanting most necessaries for fishing and fowling, it is a wonder how they could subsist, fortifie themselves, resist their enemies, and plant their plants.—(Chap. 7, p. 19.)

One ship this summer with twenty cattell, and forty or fifty passengers, arrived all well, and the ship at home againe in nine weekes: another for all this exclamation of want, is returned with 10000. corfish, and fourescore kegs of Sturgion, which they did take and save when the season was neare past, and in the very heat of summer, yet as good as can be.—(Chap. 13, p. 42.)

A Description of New England: or, the Observations & Discoveries of Captain John Smith (Admirall of that Country) in the North of America, in the year of our Lord 1614; with the successe of sixe Ships, that went the next yeare 1615; & the accidents befell him among the French men of warre: with the prooffe of the present benefit this Countrey affords: whither this present yeare, 1616, eight voluntary Ships are gone to make further tryall. At London: Printed by Humfrey Lownes, for Robert

Clerke; & are to be sould at his house called the Lodge, in Chancery lane, ouer against Lincolnes Inne.—1616.”

[Reprinted in Force's Historical Tracts, vol. ii. Contents, p. 3, Tract 1.]

“The seasons for fishing approoued. In March, April, May, & halfe June, here is Cod in abundance; in May, June, July, & August, Mullet & Sturgion; whose roes doe make Caiiare & Puttargo. Herring, if any desire them, I haue taken many out of the bellies of Cods, some in nets; but the Saluages compare their store in the sea, to the haire of their heads: & surely there are an incredible abundance upon this Coast. In the end of August, September, October & Nouember, you haue Cod againe to make Cor fish, or Poore John: & each hundred is as good as two or three hundred in the *New-found Land*. So that halfe the labor in hooking, splitting, & turning, is saued: & you may haue your fish at what Market you will, before they can haue any in *New-found Land*; where their fishing is chiefly but in June & July: whereas it is heere in March, April, May, September, October, & Nouember, as is said. So that by reason of this plantation, the Merchants may haue fraught both out & home: which yeelds an advantage worth consideration.”

“The Mulletts heere are in that abundance, you may take them with nets, sometimes by hundreds, where at *Cape blank* they hooke them; yet those but one foot & a halfe in length; these two, three, or foure, as oft I haue measured: much Salmon some haue found vp the Riuers, as they haue passed: & heer the ayre is so temperate, as all these at any time may well be preserued.” (*Vol. II, p. 10, Tract 1.*)

“Of Beuers, Otters, Martins, Blacke Foxes, & Furies of price, may yearly be had 6 or 7,000: & if the trade of the *French* were prevented, many more: 25,000 this yeare were brought from those Northern parts into France; of which trade we may haue as good part as the *French*, if we take good courses.” (*Vol. II, p. 12, Tract 1.*)

WOODS.—“The cheefe headlands are onely *Cape Tragabigzanda* & *Cape Cod*.”

“Oke, is the chiefe wood; of which there is great difference in regard of the soyle where it groweth: firre, pyne, walnut, chesnut, birch, ash, elme, cypresse, ceder, mulberrie, plumtree, hazell, saxefrage, & many other sorts.”

BIRDS.—“Eagles, Gripes, diuerse sorts of Haukes, Cranes, Geese, Brants, Cormorants, Ducks, Sheldrakes, Teale, Meawes, Guls, Turkeys, Diuc-doppers, & many other sorts, whose names I knowe not.”

FISHES.—“Whales, Grampus, Porkpisces, Turbut, Sturgion, Cod, Hake, Haddock, Cole, Cusk, or small Ling, Shark, Mackerrell, Herring, Mullet, Base, Pinacks, Cunners, Pearceh, Eels, Crabs, Lobsters, Muskles, Wilkes, Oysters, & diuerse others, &c.” (*Vol. II, p. 16, Tract 1.*)

BEASTS.—“Moos, a beast bigger than a Stagge; Deere, red, & Fallow; Beuers, Wolues, Foxes, both blacke & other; Aroughconds, Wild-cats, Beares, Otters, Martins, Fitches, Musquassus, & diuerse sorts of vermine, whose names I know not. All these & diuerse other good things do heere, for want of vse, still increase, & decrease with little diminution, whereby they growe to that abundance. You shall scarce finde any Baye, Shallow Shore, or Coue of sand, where you may not take many Clampes, or Lobsters, or both at your pleasure, & in many places lode your boat if you please; Nor Iles where you finde not fruits, birds, crabs, & muskles, or all of them, for taking, at lowe water. And in the harbors we frequented a little boye might take of

Cunners, & Pinacks, & such delicate fish, at the Ship's sterne, more than sixe or tenne can eate in a daie; but with a casting-net, thousands when wee pleased: & scarce any place, but Cods, Cuske, Holybut, Mackerell, Seate, or such like, a man may take with a hooke or line what he will. And, in diuerse sandy Baies, a man may draw with a net great store of Mulletts, Bases, & diuerse other sorts of such excellent fish, as many as his Net can drawe on shore: no Riuer where there is not plentie of Sturgion, or Salmon, or both; all which are to be had in abundance obseruing but their seasons." (*Vol. II, p. 17, Tract 1.*)

"And is it not pretty sport, to pull vp two pence, six pence, and twelue pence, as fast as you can hale & veare a line? He is a very bad fisher, cannot kill in one day with his hooke & line, one, two, or three hundred Cods: which dressed & dried, if they be sould there for ten shillings the hundred, though in *England* they will giue more than twentie; may not both the seruant, the master, & marchant, be well content with this gaine? If a man worke but three days in seauen, he may get more then hee can spend, vlesse he will be excessiue." (*Vol. II, p. 21, Tract 1.*)

"*New England's Trials. Declaring the successe of 80 ships employed thither within these eight yeares; and the benefit of that Country by Sea and Land. With the present estate of that happie Plantation, begun but by 60 weake men in the yeare 1620. And how to build a Fleete of good Shippes to make a little Nauie Royall. Written by Captain John Smith, sometimes Governour of Virginia, & Admirall of New England. The Second Edition. London: Printed by William Iones.—1622.*"

[Force's Historical Tracts, vol. II, Tract 2.]

"With two ships sent out at the charge of Captain Marmaduke Roydon, Captain George Langam, M. John Buley, & W. Skelton, I went frō the Downes the third of March, & arriued in New England the last of April, where I was to haue stayed but with ten men to keep possession of those large territories. Had the whales proued, as curious information had assured me & my aduenturers, (but those things failed.) So having but fortie-five men & boyes, we built seven boates, 37 did fish; myself with eight others ranging the coast, I took a plot of what I could see, got acquaintance of the inhabitants; 1,100 Beuer skins, 100 Martins & as many Otters. 40,000 of drie fish we sent for Spaine with the salt fish, traine oile & Fures. I returned for England the 18 of July, & arriued safe with my company the latter end of August." (*Vol. II, p. 9, Tract 2.*)

"The country very pleasant & temperate, yeelding of it self great store of fruites, as vines of diuers sorts in great abundance; there is likewise walnuts, chesnuts, small nuts & plums, with much varietie of flowers, rootes, & herbs, no lesse pleasant then wholesome & profitable: no place hath more goose-berries & straw-berries, nor better, Timber of all sorts you haue in England, doth couer the Land, that affords beasts of diuers sorts, & great flocks of Turkeys, Quailes, Pigeons & Partridges: many great lakes abounding with fish, fowle, Beuers & Otters. The sea affords vs as great plenty of all excellent sorts of sea-fish as the riuers & Iles doth varietie of wilde fowle of most vsefull sorts." (*Vol. II, p. 14, Tract 2.*)

"What is already writ of the healthfulnesse of the aire, the richnesse of the soile, the goodnes of the woods, the abundance of fruits, fish, & fowle in their season, they stil affirm that haue bin there now neare 2

yeares, & at one draught they haue taken 1,000 basses, & in one night twelve hogsheads of herring." (*Vol. II, page 16, Tract 2.*)

"*Gov. Thomas Dudley's Letter to the Countess of Lincoln, March, 1631. With explanatory Notes, by Dr. John Farmer, Corresponding Secretary of the New-Hampshire Historical Society. Washington: Published by Peter Force.—1838.*"

[Reprinted Force's, Historical Tracts II., Tract 4.—1838.]

"Vpon the 8 of March, from after it was faire day light untill about 8 of the clock in the forenoone, there flew over all the tounes in our plantacons so many flocks of doues, each flock conteyning many thousands, & some soe many that they obscured the lighte, that it passeth credit, if but the truth should bee written. (*Vol. II, page 17, Tract 4.*)

"*New English Canaan; or, New Canaan, containing an abstract of New England.—Composed in three Bookes. The first setting forth the Originall of the Natives, their Manners & Customs. Together with their tractable Nature & Love towards the English. II. The Natural Indowments of the Countrie, & what Staple Commodities it yeeldeth. III. What People are planted there, their Prosperity, what remarkable Accidents have happened since the first planting of it: together with their Tenants & practise of their Church. Written by Thomas Morton, of Clifford's Inn, Gent. Upon ten Yeers Knowledge & Experiment of the Country. Printed by Charles Green.—1632.*"

[Reprinted in Force's Historical Tracts, Vol. II, Tract 5.]

"And first of the Swanne, because she is the biggest of the fowles of that Country. There are of them in Merrimack River, & in other parts of the country, greate Store at the seasons of the yeare."

"There are Gesse of three sorts, vize, brant Geese, which are pide, & white Geese which are bigger, & gray Geese, which are as bigg & bigger then the tame Geese of England, with black legges, black bills, heads & necks black."—*Vol. II, p. 46, Tract 5.*)

"Ducks, there are of three kindes, pide Ducks, gray Ducks, & black Ducks in greate abundance."

"Teales, there are of two sorts greene winged, & blew winged."

"Widgens there are, & abundance of other water foule."

"Simpes, there are like our Simpes in all respects, with very little difference."

"Sanderlings are dainty birds, more full bodied than a Snipe."

"Cranes, there are greate Store." (*P. 47, Tract 5.*)

"Turkies there are, which divers times in great flocks have sallied by our doores. Of these there hath bin killed, that have weighed forty-eight pound a peece. I had a salvage who hath taken out his boy in a morning, & they have brought home their loades about noone. I have asked them what number they found in the woods, who have answered Neent Metawna, which is a thousand that day; the plenty of them is such in these parts. They are easily killed at rooste, because the one being killed, the other sit fast neverthelesse, & this is no bad commodity."

"There are a kinde of fowles which are commonly called Pheisants,

but whether they be pheysants or no, I will not take upon mee, to determine. They are in form like our pheasant-henne of England. Both the male & the female are alike; but they are rough footed: & have staring fethers about the head & neck, the body is as bigg as the pheasant-henne of England; & are excellent white flesh, & delicate white meate, yet we seldome bestowe a shoote at them."

"Partridges, there are much, like our Partridges of England, they are of the same plumes, but bigger in body. They have not the signe of the horse shoe-shoe on the brest as the Partridgès of England; nor are they coloured about the heads as those are; they sit on the trees. For I have seen 40. in one tree at a time; yet at night they fall on the ground, & sit until morning so together; & are dainty flesh."

"There quailles also, but bigger then the quailles in England. They take trees also: for I have numbered 60. upon a tree at a time. The cocks doe call at the time of the yeare, but with a different note from the Cock quailles of England." (*P. 48, Tract 5.*)

"There are Owles of divers kindes: but I did neve heare any of them whop as ours doe."

"There are Crowes, kights & rooks that doe differ in some respects from those of England. The Crowes (which I have much admired, what should be the cause) both smell & taste of Muske in Summer, but not in Winter." (*P. 49, Tract 5.*)

"There is a curious bird to see to, called a hunning bird, no bigger than a great Beetle; that out of question lives upon the Bee, which he eateth & catcheth amongst Flowers: For it is his Custome to frequent those places, Flowers he cannot feed upon by reason of his sharp bill, which is like the poynt of a Spanish needle, but Shorte. His fethers have a glosse like silke, & as hee stirres, they show to be of a chaingable colour; & has bin, & is admired for shape, colour, & size." (*P. 50, Tract 5.*)

"There are in this Country, three kindes of Deares of which there are greate plenty, & those are very usefull. First, therefore I will speake of the Elke, which the Salvages call a Mose: it is a very large Deare, with a very faire head, & a broade palme, like the palme of a fallow Deares horne, but much bigger, & is 6. footewide betweene the tipps, which grow curbing downwards: Hee is of the bignesse of a great horse. There is a second sort of Deare (lesse then the redd Deare of England, but much bigger then the English fallow Deare) swift of foote, but of a more darke colour; with some griseld heares. When his coate is full growne in the summer season, his hornes grow curving, with a croked beame, resembling our redd Deare, not with a palme like the fallow Deare." (*P. 51, Tract 5.*)

"There is likewise a third sorte of deare, lesse then the other, (which are a kind of rayne deare,) to the southward of all the English plantations, they are excellent good flesh. And these also bring three fownes at a time, & in this particular the Deare of those parts, excell all the knowne Deare of the whole world."

"The next in mine opinion fit to be spoken of is the Beaver; which is a Beast ordained, for land & water both, & hath fore feet like a cunny, her hinder feete like a goese, mouthed like a cunny, but short eared like a Serat, fishe in summer, & wood in winter, which hee conveyes to his howse built on the water, wherein hee sitts with his tayle hanging in the water, which else would over heate & rot off."—(*P. 52, Tract 5.*)

"The Otter of those parts, in Winter season, hath a furre as black so jett, & is a furre of very highe price; a good black skinne is worth 3. or 4. Angels of gold. The Flesh is eaten by the Salvages: but how

good it is I cannot shew, because it is not eaten by our Nation. Yet is this a beast, that ought to be placed in the number amongst the Commodities of the Country."

"The Luseran or Luseret, is a beast like a Catt: but so bigg as a great hound: with a tayle shorter then a Catt. His clawes are like a Catt's. Hee will make a pray of the Deare. His Flesh is dainty meat, like a lambe; his hide is choise furre, & accompted a good comodity."

"The Martin is a beast about the bignes of a Foxe. His furre is chestnutt coloure, & of those there are greate Store in the Northerne parts of the Country, & is a good comodity." (*P. 53, Tract 5.*)

"The Racowne is a beast as bigg, full out, as a Foxe, with a Bush-tayle. His Flesh excellent foode: his oyle precious for the Syattica, his furre course, butt the Skinnes serve the Salvages for coats, & is with those people of more esteeme, then a coat of beaver, because of the tayles that (hanging round in their order) doe adorne the garment, & is therefore so much esteemed of them. His fore-feete are like the feete of an ape; & by the print thereof, in the time of snow, he is followed to his hole, which is commonly in a hollow tree, from whence hee is fiered out, & so taken."

"The Foxes are of two coloures; the one redd, the other gray, these feede on fish; & are good furre, the doe not stinke, as the Foxes of England, but their condition for their pray, is as the Foxes of England."

"The Wolfes are of divers coloures: some sandy coloured; some griselled, & some black, their foode is fish which they catch when they pass up the rivers, into the ponds to spawne at the Spring time. The Deare are also their pray, & at Summer, where they have whelpes, the bitch will fetch a puppy dogg from our dores, to feed their whelpes with." (*P. 54, Tract 5.*)

"The Beare is a tyrant at a Lobster, & at low water will downe to the Rocks, & groape after them with great diligence. His hide is used by the Salvages, for garments, & is more commodious then discomodious, as may passe (with some allowance) with the rest."

"The Muskewashe, is a beast that frequenteth the ponds. What he eats I cannot finde."

"This Country, in the North parts thereof, hath many Porcupines, but I do not finde the beast any way usefull or hurtfull."

"There are in those Northerne parts many Hedgehoggs, of the like nature, to our English Hedghoggs."

"Here are greate store of Conyes in those parts, of divers coloures; some white, some black, & some gray. Those towards the Southern parts are very small, but those to the North are as big as the English Cony; their eares are very short. For meate the small rabbit is as good as any that I have eaten of elsewhere."

"There are Squirils of three sorts, very different in shape & condition; & is gray, & hee is as bigg as the lesser Cony, & keepeth the woods feeding upon nutts."

"Another is red, and he haunts our houses, & will rob us of our Corne, but the Catt many times, payes him the price of his presumption." (*P. 55, Tract 5.*)

"The third is a little flying squirill, with bat-like wings, which hee spreads when hee jumps from tree to tree, and does no harm."

SNAKES.—"The general Salvage name of them is Ascowke. There is one creeping beast, or longe creeple (as the name is in Devonshire,) that hath a rattle at his tayle, that doth discover his age. I have had my dogge venomed with troubling one of these; & so swelled, that I thought it would have bin his death; but with one saucer of salet oyle

powred downe his throat, he has recovered, & the swelling asswaged by the next day. The like experiment hath bin made upon a boy that hath by chance troad upon one of these, and the boy never the worse. Therefore it is simplicity in any one that shall tell a bugbeare tale of horrible or terrible Serpents that are in that land.

“Mise there are good store, & my Lady Woodbees black gray mal-kin may have pastime enough there: but for rats, the Country by Nature is troubled with none.” (P. 56, *Tract. 5.*)

“*Of the Fishes, & what commodity they proove.*”

“Among Fishes First I will begin with the Codd, because it is the most commodious of all fish, as may appeare, by the use which is made of them in foraigne parts.”

“The Codd fishing is much used in America, (whereof New England is part) in so much as 300. Sayle of shipp, from divers ports, have used to be employed yearely in that trade.”

“I have seene in one Harboure, next Richmond Island 15. Sayle of shipp at one time, that have taken in them, driyed Codds for Spaine, & the Straights (& it has bin found that the Saylers have made 15. 18. 20. 22. p. Share for a common man.”

“The Coast aboundeth with such multitudes of Codd, that the inhabitants of New England doe dunge their grounds with Codd; & it is a commodity better than the golden mines of the Spanish Indies; for without dried Codd the Spaniard, Portugal & Italian, would not be able to vittell of a shipp for the sea; & I am sure at the Canaries it is the principall commodity; which place lyeth neere New England very convenient, for the vending of this commodity, one hundred of these being at the price of 300. of New found land Codds, great store of traine oyle is mayd of the livers of the Codd, & is a commodity that without question will enrich the inhabitants of New England quickly; & is therefore a principall commodity.”

“The Basse is an excellent Fish, both fresh & Salte one hundred whereof salted (at market) have yielded 5. p. They are so large, the head of one will give a good eater a dinner, & for daintinesse of diet, they excell the Marybones of Beefe. There are such multitudes, that I have seene stopped into the river close adjoining to my howse with a sand at one tide, so many as will loade a ship of 100 tonnes.”

“Other places have greater quantities in so much, as wagers have bin layed, that one should not throw a stone in the water, but that hee should hit a fish.”

“I myselfe, at the turning of the tyde, have seene such multitudes passe out of a ponde, that it seemed to me, that one might goe over their backs drishod.”

“These follow the bayte up the rivers, & sometimes are followed for bayte & chased into the bayes, & shallow waters, by the grand pise¹: & these may have also a prime place in the Catalogue of Commodities.”

“The Makarels are the baite for the Basse, & these have been chased into the shallow waters, where so many thousands have shott themselves a shore with the surfe of the Sea, that whole hogges-heads have been taken up on the Sands; & for length they excell any of other

¹ Grampus, (S. F. B.)

parts: they have bin measured 18. & 19. inches in length & seaven breadth: & are taken with a drayle, (as boats use to pass to & froe at Sea on businesse) in very greate quantities all along the Coaste."

"The Fish is good, salted; for store against the winter, as well as fresh, & to be accounted a good commodity."

"The Sturgeon in England is *regalis piscis*, every man in New England may catch what he will, there are multitudes of them, & they are much fatter than those that are brought into England from other parts, in so much as by reason of their fatnesse, they do not look white, but yellow, which made a cook presume they were not so good as them of Roushea: silly fellow that could not understand that it is the nature of fish salted, or pickelled, the fatter the yellower being best to preserve."

"Of Salmones there is a great abundance: & these may be allowed for a commodity, and placed in the catallogue."

"Of Herrings, there is great store, fat, and faire; & (to my minde) as good as any I have seene, & these may be preserved, and made a good commodity at the Canaries."

"Of Eeles there is abundance, both in the Saltwaters & in the fresh: & the fresh water Eele there (if I may take the judgment of a London Fishmonger) is the best that hee hath found in his life time. I have with jeele potts found my howse hold, (being nine persons, besides doggs) with them: taking them every tide, (for 4. moneths space) & preserving of them for winter store; & these may prove a good commodity."

"Of Smelts there is such abundance, that the Salvages doe take them up the rivers with baskets, like sives."

"There is a Fish (by some called shadds, by some allizes¹) that at the spring of the yeare, passe up the rivers to spaune in the ponds; & are taken in such multitudes in every river, that hath a pond at the end, that the inhabitants doung their grounds with them. You may see in one township a hundred acres together, set with these Fish, every acre taking 1,000 of them: & an acre thus dressed will produce & yeald so much corne as 3. acres without Fish: & (least any Virginea man would inferre hereupon, that the ground of New England is barren, because they use no fish in setting their corne, I desire them to be remembered, the cause is plain in Virginea) they have it not to sett. But this practice is onely for the Indian Maize (which must be set by hands) not for English graine: & this is, therefore, a commodity there."

"There is a large sized fish called Hallibut, or Turbut: some are taken so bigg that two men have much a doe to hall them into the boate; but there is such plenty, that the fisher men onely eate the heads & finnes, and thow away the bodies: such in Paris would yeeld 5. or 6. crownes a peece: and this is no discommodity."

"There are excellent Plaice & easily taken. They (at flowing water) do almost come ashore, so that one may stepp but halfe a foote deepe, & pick them up on the sands: & this may pass with some allowance."

"Hake is a dainty white fish, & excellent vittell fresh; and may passe with other commodities, because there are multitudes."

"There are greate store of Pilehers: at Michelmas, in many places, I have seene the Cormerants in length 3. miles feeding upon the Sent."

"Lobsters are there infinite in store in all parts of the land, & very excellent. The most use that I made of them, in 5. yeares after I came there was but to baite my Hooke for to catch Basse, I had bin so cloyed with them the first day I went a shore."

¹ Alewives, (S. F. B.)

"This being knowne, they shall passe for a commodity to the inhabitants; for the Salvages will meete 500, or 1,000, at a place where Lobsters come in with the tyde, to eate, & save dried for Store, abiding in that place, feasting & sporting a moneth or 6. weekes together."

"There are greate store of oysters in the entrance of all Rivers; they are not round as those of England, but excellent fat, and all good. I have seene an Oyster bank a mile at length."

"Mustles there are infinite store, I have often gon to Wassaguscus; where were excellent Mustles to eate (for variety) the fish is so fat & large."

"Clames is a shellfish, which I have seene sold in Westminster for 12. pe. the skore. These our swine feede upon; & of them there is no want, every shore is full, it makes the swine proove exceedingly, they will not faile at low water to be with them. The Salvages are much taken with the delight of this fishe; & are not cloyed (notwithstanding the plenty) for our swine we find it a good commodity."

"Raser fishes there are. Freeles there are, Coekles, and Scallopes, & divers other sorts of shellfishe, very good foode."

"There are, in the rivers and ponds, very excellent Trouts, Carpes, Breames, Pikes, Roches, Perches, Tenches, Eeles, and other fishes such as Engiand doth afford, & as good, for variety; yea many of them much better; & the natives of the inland parts doe buy hookes of us to catch them with, & I have knowne the time, that a Trout's hooke hath yielded a beaver skinne, which hath bin a good commodity to those that have bartered them away."

"*New England's Plantation, or a short & true description of the Commodities & Discommodities of that Countrey. Written by a reverend Divine [Mr. Higgeson] now there resident. London. Printed by T. C. & R. C. for Michael Sparke, dwelling at the signe of the Blue Bible in Greene Arbor in the little Old Bailey, 1630.*"

[Force's Historical Tracts. Vol. I, Tract XII: also, collections of Massachusetts Historical Society for the year 1792. Vol. 1. Boston: 1806.]

"For Beasts there are some Beares, & they say some Lyons also; for they have been seen at Cape Anne. Also here are severall sorts of Deere, some whereof bring three or foure young ones at once, which is not ordinarie in *England*. Also Wolues, Foxes, Beavers, Otters, Martins, great wild Cats, and a great Beast called a Molke as bigge as an Oxe. I have seen the skins of all these Beasts since I came to this Plantation excepting Lyons. Also here are great Store of Squerrels, some greater, & some smaller & lesser: there are some of the lesser sort, they tell me, that by a certain Skin will fly from Tree to Tree though they stand far distant." (P. 8.)

"*New England* hath Water enough both salt & fresh, the greatest Sea in the World, the *Atlanticke* Sea runs all along the Coast thereof. There are abundance of Islands along the Shore, some full of Wood & Mast to feed Swine; & others cleere of Wood, & fruitful to beare Corne. Also we haue store of excellent harbours for Ships, as at Cape Anne, & at *Masathulets* Bay, & at *Salem*, & at many other places: & they are the better because for Strangers there is a verie difficult & dangerous passage into them, but unto such as are well acquainted with them, they are easie & safe enough. The abundance of Sea-Fish are almost

beyond beleeuing, & sure I should scarce haue beleued it except I had seene it with mine owne Eyes. I saw great Store of Whales & Cram-pusse, & such aboundance of Makerils that it would astonish one to behold, likewise Cod-Fish aboundance on the Coast, & in their season are plentifully taken. There is a Fish called a Basse, a most sweet & wholesome Fish as euer I did eat, it is altogether as good as our fresh Salmon, & the season of their comming was begun when we came first to *New-England* in June, & so continued about three months space. Of this Fish our Fishers take many hundreds together, which I haue seene lying on the shore to my admiration; yea, *their Nets ordinarily take more than they are able to hall to Land*, & for want of Boats & Men they are constrained to let a many goe after they haue taken them, & yet sometimes they fill two Boats at a time with them. And besides Basse we take plentie of Scate & Thornbacke, & aboundance of Lobsters, that the least Boy in the Plantation may both catch & eat what he will of them. For my owne part I was soone cloyed with them, they were so great, & fat, & lussions. I haue seene some my selfe that haue weighed 16 pound, but others haue had diuers time so great Lobsters as haue weighed 25 pound, as they assured me. Also here is aboundance of Herring, Turbut, Sturghion, Cuskes, Hadocks, Mulletts, Eeles, Crabs, Muskles & Oysters."—(P. 9.)

"Here are likewise aboundance of Turkies often killed in the Woods, farre greater than our English Turkies, & exceeding fat, sweet, & fleshy, for here they haue aboundance of feeding all the yeere long, as Strawberries, in Summer all places are full of them, & all manner of Berries & Fruits. In the Winter time I haue seene Flockes of Pidgeons, & haue eaten of them; they doe flye from Tree to Tree as other Birds doe, which our Pidgeons will not doe in *England*: they are of all colours as ours are, but their wings & tayles are farr longer, & therefore it is likely they fly swifter to escape the terrible Hawkes in this Countrey. In Winter time this Countrey doth abound with wild Geese, wild Ducks, & other Sea Fowle, that a great part of Winter the Planters haue eaten nothing but roastmeat of diuers Fowles which they have killed."

Chronicles of the Pilgrim Fathers of the colony of Plymouth. 1692-25. By A. Young, 8 vo., Boston, 1841.

"In five or six hours [in Cape Cod Bay] we pestered our ship so with cod fish that we threw numbers of them overboard again." *Journal of John Brereton, May, 1602.*

[He was then with Gosnold, on the voyage in which Cape Cod was discovered. Page 101.]

"We saw daily [in Cape Cod Harbor, Nov.—Dec., 1620] great whales, of the best kind for oil & bone, come close aboard our ship, and in fair weather swim & play about us." P. 146.)

"Before the brook [Town Brook, Plymouth, Mass.] was so much impeded by dams, vast quantities of alewives passed up through it annually to Billington Sea. In a single season 800 barrels have been taken." P. 172, note 3.)

"Having but one boat left, we divide the men into several companies, six or seven in each; who take their turns to go out with a net and fish, and return not till they get some, though they be five or six days out; knowing there is nothing at home, & to return empty would be a great discouragement. When they stay long or get but little, the rest go a digging shell fish." [Plymouth, Mass., summer of 1623.] Bradford in Prince, p. 216. P. 348, note 1.)

History of Scituate, Massachusetts, from the first settlement to 1831. By Samuel Deane, 8 vo. Boston, 1831.

“In 1680; Cornet Robert Stetson, of Scituate, and Nathaniel Thomas, of Marshfield, hired the cape fishery for bass and mackerel. In 1684, the court enacted a law “prohibiting the seining of mackerel in any part of the colony;” and the same year leased the cape fishery for bass and mackerel to Mr. William Clark for seven years, at £30 per annum. Subsequently to 1700, it is certain that the mackerel were very abundant in the Massachusetts Bay. It was not uncommon for a vessel to take a thousand barrels in the season. The packing, as it is called, was chiefly done at Boston and Plymouth until late years. The vessels of Scituate now pack at one harbor. George Morton, who came from Plymouth in 1730, was the first cooper of whom we have heard, at Scituate harbour. Our vessels now find them less abundant, and farther from their former haunts. They used to set into the bay early in May, and again in autumn: but now they are found at Block Island channel in May—at George’s Bank and Nantucket shoals in the summer, and at Mount Desert and along the shores of Maine in the autumn. Those first taken are lean, and favour the commonly received opinion, that they lie in the muddy bottom in the winter but towards the winter they are found well fed, fat, and delicious. The full-grown mackerel vary in weight from one to two and three pounds. The fattest, taken in the autumn, are not generally of the largest size.”

New-Englands Plantation. Or, a short and true description of the commodities and discommodities of that country. Written by a reuerend Divine [Francis Higginson] now there resident. London, 1630.

[Foree’s Historical Tracts, I, 1836, No. 12.]

The abundance of Sea-Fish are almost beyond beleuing, and sure I should scarce have beleued it except I had seene it with mine owne Eyes. I saw great store of Whales and Crampusse, and such abundance of Makerils that it would astonish one to behold, likewise Cod-Fish abundance on the coast, and in their season are plentifully taken. There is a Fish called a Basse, a most sweet and wholesome Fish as ever I did eat, it is altogether as good as our fresh Sammon, and the season of their comming was begun when we came first to New-England, in June, and so continued about three months apace. Of these Fish our Fishers take many hundred together, which I have seene lying on the shore to my admiration, yea, their nets ordinarily take more then they are able to hale to Land, and for want of Boats and men they are constrained to let a many goe after they have taken them, and yet sometimes they fill two Boats at a time with them, (p. 9.)

New Englands Prospect. A true, lively, and experimentall description of that part of America, commonly called New England: discovering the state of that countrie both as it stands to our new-come English Planters and to the old native inhabitants. By William Wood. London, 1634.

[Publications of the Prince Society. Boston, 1865.]

The Sammon is as good as it is in England, and in great plenty (p. 38).

Of these fishes [the Basse] some be three and some foure feet long, some bigger, some lesser; at some tides a man may catch a dozen or twenty of these in three houres, the way to catch them is with hooke and line. The Fisherman taking a great Cod-line, to which he fasteneth a piece of Lobster, and throwes it into the Sea, the fish biting at it he pulls her to him, and knocks her on the head with a sticke. These are at one time (when Alewives passe up the Rivers) to be catched in Rivers, in Lobster time at the Rockes, in Macrill time in the Bayes, at *Michelmas* in the Seas. When they use to tide it in and out to the Rivers and Creekes, the *English* at the top of an high water do crosse the Creekes with long seanes or Basse Netts, which stop in the fish; and the water ebbing from them they are left on the dry ground, sometimes two or three thousand at a set, which are salted up against winter, etc. The Herrings be much like them that be caught on the *English* coast. Alewives be a kind of fish which is much like a Herring, which in the latter end of Aprill come up to the fresh Rivers to spaune, in such multitudes as is almost incredible, pressing up in such shallow waters as will scarce permit them to swimme, having likewise such longing desire after the fresh water ponds, that no beating with poles, or forcive agitations by other devices, will cause them to returne to the sea, till they have cast their spawnne. The Shaddes be bigger than the *English* Shaddes, and fatter. The Macrells be of two sorts, in the beginning of the yeare are great ones, which be upon the coast; some are 18 inches long. In Summer as in May, June, July, and August, come in a smaller kind of them, (p. 38.)

Codfish in these seas are larger than in new found land, six or seven making a quintall, whereas there they have fiftene to the same weight. The chiefe fish for trade is Cod.

A little below this fall of waters, the inhabitants of Water-towne [near Boston] have built a Wayre to catch Fish, wherein they take great store of *Shads* and *Alewives*. In two Tydes they have gotten one hundred thousand of those Fishes, [p. 44.] * * * I have seen ten thousand [Alewives] taken in two houres by two men, without any weire at all, saving a few stones to stop their passage up the river, [p. 46.] * * * The Basse continuing from the middle of Aprill to *Michaelmas*, which stayes not above half that time in the Bay; besides here is a great deal of Rock-cod and Macrill, insomuch that shoales of Basse have driven up shoales of Macrill from one end of the Sandie Beach [Swampscott] to the other, which the inhabitants have gathered up on wheelbarrowes, [p. 47.] * * * In this river [*Merrimacke*] is Sturgeon, Sammon, and Basse, [p. 49.]

A Topographical Description of Truro, in the County of Barnstable. 1794.

[Collections of the Massachusetts Historical Society for the year 1794. Vol. III. Boston, 1810.]

“A traveller from the interiour part of the country, where the soil is fertile, upon observing the barrenness of Truro, would wonder what could induce any person to remain in such a place. But his wonder would cease, when he was informed, that the subsistence of the inhabitants is derived chiefly from the sea. The shores & marshes afford large & small clams, quahaugs, razor shells, periwinkles, muscles, and cockles. The bay and ocean abound with excellent fish and with crabs and lobsters. The sturgeon, eel, haddock, cod, frost-fish, pollock, cusk, flounder, halibut, bass, mackerel, herring, and alewife, are most of them caught in great plenty, and constitute a principal part of the food of the inhabitants. Besides these fish for the table, there is a great vari-

ety of other fish : among which are the whale, killer or thrasher, hump-back, finback, skrag, grampus, black fish, porpoise, (grey, bass, and streaked,) snuffer, shark, (black, man-eating, and short-nosed,) skate, dog-fish, sun-fish, goose-fish, cat-fish, and sculpion ; to which may be added the horseshoe and squid. The cramp-fish has sometimes been seen on the beach. This fish, which resembles a sting ray in size and form, possesses the properties of the torpedo, being capable of giving a smart electrical shock. The fishermen suppose, but whether with reason or not the writer will not undertake to determine, that the oil extracted from the liver of this fish is a cure for the rheumatism."

A short Journal of the first settlement of the island of Nantucket, with some of the most remarkable things that had happened since, to the present time. By Zaccheus Macy.

[Collections of the Massachusetts Historical Society for the year 1794, vol. III. Boston, 1810.]

The natives of Nantucket were a kind people, and very friendly to each other. There were no poor persons among them. For when any of them grew old & helpless, and went to a neighbor's house, they were made welcome to stay as long as they pleased. If the English entered their houses whilst they were eating, they would offer them such as they had, which sometimes would be very good. At their feasts they had several sorts of good food, and very good strong beer. By drinking rum their numbers were so much reduced that in the year 1763, there were but three hundred & fifty-eight left on the island. In that year an uncommon mortal distemper attacked them. It began the 16th of the eighth month, 1763, and lasted till the 16th of the second month, 1764. During that period two hundred and twenty-two died. Thirty-four were sick and recovered. Thirty-six who lived among them, escaped the disorder. Eight lived at the west end of the island, and did not go among them: none of them caught the disease. Eighteen were at sea. With the English lived forty, of whom none died.

The Indians are now reduced to four males and sixteen females. Before this period, and from the first coming of the English to Nantucket,¹ a large fat fish, called the blue fish, thirty of which would fill a barrel, was caught in great plenty all round the island, from the 1st of the sixth month till the middle of the ninth month. But it is remarkable, that in the year 1764, the very year in which the sickness ended, they all disappeared, and that none have ever been taken since. This has been a great loss to us.

Extracts from a Petition from New Shoreham (Block Island) for assistance to make a harbor there in 1773.

Having stated many reasons why the island was suffering for want of a good harbor, they say further: "That they also suffer greatly by the loss of the cod-fishery, which formerly, while the channel was kept open between the sea & a large salt pond on the west side of the island,

¹ Note by Theodore Lyman :

In 1659.	Therefore, the Blue Fsh were	present at Nantucket,	1659-1764-103 years
"	"	absent	" 1764-1830-66 "
"	"	present again,	" 1830-1871-41 "

was so considerable that they used to catch fish enough for their own consumption, and to supply *Newport* & divers other places with fresh fish; but that, the channel being now filled, the small fish or bait which used to go into the pond, have left the island, & the cod-fish with them; so that at present the inhabitants cannot get near enough for their own eating, and that these inconveniences have such an effect upon the real estates on the island that land will not sell or rent for more than half the sum which land of the like quality will sell or rent for in other parts of the colony.

A Key into the language of America, or an help to the Language of the Natives in New England, London, by Roger Williams; 1643.

[Reprinted in the collections of the Rhode Island Historical Society, vol. 1, 1827.]

OF FISH AND FISHING.

Namañs, suck.	Fish, Fishes.
Panganait, tamwock.	Cod, Which is the first that comes a little before the Spring.
Qunnamáng-suck.	Lampries, The first that comes in the Spring into the fresh Rivers.
Aumstog, and Munnawhatteatg.	A Fish somewhat like a herring. [The alewife and menhaden.]
Missúckeke-kequoock.	Basse.

The Indians (and the English too) make a daintie dish of the Uppa-quotup, or head of this fish; and well they may, the braines and fat of it being very much, and sweet as marrow.

Kaíposh-shaítog.	Sturgeon.
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Obs: Divers part of the Countrey abound with this Fish; yet the Natives, for the goodnesse and greatnesse of it, much prize it, and will neither furnish the English with so many, nor so cheape, that any great trade is likely to be made of it, untill the English themselves are fit to follow the fishing.

The Natives venture one or two in a Canow, and with an harping Iron, or such like Instrument, sticke this fish, and so hale it into their Canow; sometimes they take them by their nets, which they make strong of Hemp.

Ashòp, their nets. Which they will set thwart some little River or Cove, wherein they kill Basse (at the fall of the water) with their arrows, or sharp sticks, especially if headed with iron, gotten from the English, &c.

Aucùp.	A little Cove or Creeke.
Aueppáwese.	A very little one.
Wawwhumuekesítog.	Mackrell.
Mishquammaítquoock.	Red fish, Salmon.
Osacóntnek.	A fat, sweet fish, something like a Haddock. [Not identified.]
Misheùp-paítog. Sequanamáiquoock.	Bream. [Scup.]

Obs: Of this Fish there is abundance, which the Natives drie in the Sunne and smoake: and some *English* begin to salt, both wayes they keepe all the yeere; and it is hoped it may be as well accepted as Cod at a Market, and better, if once knowne.

Taut-aítog.	Sheeps-heads. [The tautog.]
Neeshaítog.	Eeles.
Tatackommáítog.	Porpuses.
Pótop-paítog.	Whales.

Which, in some places, are often cast up; I have seene some of them, but not above sixtie foot long; The Natives cut them out in severell parcells, and give and sende farre and neere for an acceptable present or dish.

Ashaunt-teaug.	Lobsters.
Opponenañhock.	Oysters.
Siekissuog.	Clams. [Soft clam. <i>Mya arenaria.</i>]

OBS: This is a sweet kind of shellfish, which all Indians generally over the Country, Winter and Summer, delight in; and at low water the women dig for them. This fish, and the naturall liquors of it, they boile, and it makes their broth and their nassaúmp (which is a kind of thickened broth) and their bread seasonable and savoury; instead of Salt: and for that the English Swine dig and root these Clams wheresoever they come, and watch the low water (as the Indian women do) therefore of all the English Cattell, the Swine (as also because of their filthy disposition) are most hateful to all Natives, and they call them filthy cut-throats, &c.

Sequnnock. Poquañhock.	A Horse-fish. [Hard clam; quohog. <i>Venus mercenaria.</i>]
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OBS: This the English call Heus, a little thick shell fish, which the Indians wade deepe and dive for, and after they have eaten the meat there (in those which are good) they breake out of the shell, about half an inch of a blacke part of it, of which they make their Luckañhock, or black money, which is to them precious.

Meteañhock.	The Periwinkle. [Probably <i>Pyrgula</i> , (Hammond.)]
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Of which they make their *Wómpam*, or white money, of halfe the value of their *Suckáwhock* or black money, of which more in the Chapter of their Coyne.

Moamitteaug.	A little sort of fish, halfe as big as Sprats, plentifull in Winter. [Murchhogs or cypronodonts.]
Paponaumsuog.	A winter fish. [Tom cod.]

Which comes up in the brookes and rivulets; some call them Frost fish, from their comming up from the Sea into fresh brookes, in times of frost and snow.

Quósuog.	A fresh fish. [The pickerel.]
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which the Indians break the ice in fresh ponds, when they take also many other sorts: for, to my knowledge, the Country yeelds many sorts of other fish, which I mention not.

On some early notices of New England fishes. By J. Hammond Trumbull.

HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT, December 30, 1871.

MY DEAR SIR: * * * * *

As to Williams's *tautauog*, the fact that the Indian name comes down to us associated always with the "blackfish" or *tautog*, and nowhere with the *Sargus ovis*, convinces me that the former was the "Sheeps-

head" of Williams and of Josselyn, (in *New England Rarities*, p. 69, of Tuckerman's edition,) and the latter, if known at all to the Narragansett Indians in Williams's time, was not common enough to bring its Indian name to his notice. In a manuscript vocabulary obtained by President Stiles in 1762, "from a Pequot Indian at Groton, Connecticut," I find "*Tautauge*, Blackfish," which removes all doubt as to the appropriation of the name. In the same vocabulary, or list of names rather, are these: "*Umpsauges*, Alewives," [= *aumsuog*, R. W.,] "*Cachauwet*, Cunners," [our "Chogset,"] "*Aquaunduit*, Blue Fish."

This last I have not found elsewhere. Its occurrence here shows that the *Temnodon saltator* was no stranger in Fisher's Island Sound in 1762.

While at Edgartown last summer, I heard old fishermen call flounders and plaice "buts," distinguishing the species by a prefix. I did not before know that this old English and Dutch name had survived, in popular use, to our time. Palsgrave translates the French "plie" [plie] by "*Butte* fysshe," and Steendam, the Dutch poet, names the "*Bot, en Sneek*"—plaice and pike—among the fishes of New Netherlands in 1661. The Halibut is the "holy-but," (German, heilige-butt,) and we have the same ground-word in "Thorn-butt," and "Turbot," though the lexicographers stick to the old etymology from Latin, *turbo*, a top; and in the English "Burt" or "Birt."

I forget whether or not I made a note for you on the alleged derivation of "alewife," from "aloof." Dr. J. V. C. Smith, in his *Natural History of the Fishes of Massachusetts*, 1833, was perhaps the first to record the suggestion that "*alewife* is derived from the Indian word *aloof*, signifying a *bony fish*." Dr. Bartlett's *Dictionary of Americanisms*, Webster's, and, I believe, Worcester's, *Dictionaries* accept this etymology, and Professor Schele De Vere, in his recently published volume of "*Americanisms*," is misled into recognizing in "alewife" a "most ludicrous corruption of the Narragansett term *aloof*," though he appears to have been struck by the objection that neither *l* nor *f* can have a place in a Narragansett word, and he suggests that the original name may have been *ainoop*.

The Narragansett and Massachusetts name of the alewife and herring (common to several species) was *Aumsu-og*, (plur.) as noted by Roger Williams and, with slight dialectic variation, by President Stiles, as you have seen. The only authority for "aloof" is a letter of (the second John Winthrop, printed in the *Philosophical Transactions* for 1678, (No.) 142,) in which he mentions the use of "the fishes called *aloofes*" for manuring corn-fields. If we could refer to Winthrop's manuscript, I am confident we should find that a copyist or printer had substituted "aloofes" for "*aloofes*," *i. e.*, *aloses* or *alizes*. The modern English "allis" was in old French and old English "alouze" or "aloose," nearer than the modern form of the name to Latin *alansa*. Morton's *New England Canaan*, (1637) mentions the use of the "fish by some called *shadds*, by some *allizes*," as fertilizers.

Forty years before Winthrop's letter was written from Connecticut, Wood, in *New England's Prospect*, (London, 1634,) catalogues "big-bellied Alewives," with "consorting Herrings and the bony Shad," among the fishes of Massachusetts; and Josselyn (*New England Rarities*, p. 23) names the "*Alize Alewife, because great-bellied*," with the synonymes "*Olaffe, Oldwife, Allow*." In his "*Voyages*" (1674) he describes this fish as "like a Herring, but has a bigger bellie, therefore called an Alewife."

Couch, I see, gives "*Alewife*" and "*Maid*" as popular names of the

larger and smaller English shads—the allis and twait, (iv, 117.) Perhaps I have wasted too many words and too much paper on this name, but I am tired of the re-appearance every now and then of Dr. Smith's spurious Indian "*aloof*."

"En decembre, vu, pour parler plus juste, pendant les deux dernieres lunes, un poisson appellé *Ponamo* vient frayer *sur* les glaces, et on en prend autant qu'on veut; je crois que c'est une espèce de *Chien de Mer*."—(*Tom. I, p. 127.*)

"Vers la fin de mars, les poissons commencent à frayer, et entrent dans les rivieres en si grande quantité, qu'on ne peut le croire, quand on ne l'a point vû. Le premier qui paroît est l'*Éplan*, lequel est trois fois plus grand en ce pays-là, qu'en Europe. A la fin d'Avril le *Hareng* donne," etc.—(*Ibid.*)

Charlevoix, *Histoire générale de la Nouv. France*, (*Paris, 1744.*) borrows this account of the fishes of Acadie from Father Biard's Relation de la Nouv. France, 1611-13. Biard writes:

"En decembre (admirable providence de Dieu) vient un poisson appellé d'eux *Ponamo*, qui fraye *sous* la glace, (p. 10.) Sur la my-mars, le poisson commence à frayer et à monter de la mer en haut contre certains ruisseaux, souvent en si grande abondance, que tout en fourmille. . . . Entre ces poissons, l'*Ésplan* est le premier. Cet esplan est deux ou trois fois plus grand que l'est le nostre de rivière." (P. 10.)

You will observe that Charlevoix, by mistranscription, makes the *Ponamo* spawn "*sur* les glaces" instead of "*sous* la glace," and confounds it with some species of "*chien de mer*," and, oddly enough, Dr. J. G. Shea, in his new translation of Charlevoix, mistranslates "*chien de mer*" by "*seal*," an error to be noted in his errata.

The *Ponamo* is the Tom-cod or Frost-fish (*M. tomcodus*, Mitch.,) of which the modern Micmac name is *Boonamoo*. It is not confounded by Biard or Charlevoix with the other "frost-fish," the Smelt, (*Eperlan*.)

The name *Ponamo* means "winter fish," or, more exactly, "fish taken in the winter."

Biard's relation will be found in the reprinted "Relations des Jésuites," (Quebec, 1858,) vol. I, to be found in the Congressional Library.

The notices of fishes of New England in Wood's "New England's Prospect," (London, 1634, and reprinted, Boston, 1865, by the "Prince Society,") you have probably noticed; and, of course, Josselyn's list of New England fish, in his "Account of Two Voyages to New England," (London, 1675,) as well as in his "New England Rarities," (1672.) In the former work (pp. 112, 113) he describes the "Frost-fish," "a little bigger than a Gudgeon," &c.; but in his list (p. 89) includes the "Smelt" by name.

Captain John Smith, in "The Description of New England," 1616, (reprinted, Boston, 1865,) gives a short list of the fishes of New England, (p. 48,) which includes "Cole, Cusk, or small Ling, Mullet, *Pinacks*, [very plenty,] *Cunners*," &c.

"Pinak" is, I suppose, the old English "Pinck" or "Pink," meaning any "small" or "delicate" fish, and still in use as a name for the minnow. (Dutch *pinck*, *pinky*? the little finger.) "Cunner," in the seventeenth century, belonged to the Golden Wrasse, (*Crenilabrus Donovanii*, Cuv. and Val., *Labrus cornubius*, Don.,) rather than to the other "Gilt Head," the *Sparus aurata*, of Linn.—*Chrysophrys aurata*, Cuv. and Yarrell. The former was common, the latter rare, on the southern coast of England; and I have no doubt that Smith and Josselyn both transferred the name of "conner" (see Yarrell, ii, 498) from the *Wrasse*, not from the *Gilthead* proper. But it is very likely that the Dutch name of

the American fish Bergall (Holl. *Verguld* and *Bergylt*) came from another species, though the Dutch name of the European *Gilt-head* was *Zeebraassen*.

Jacob Steendam's poem in "Praise of New Netherland," (*'t Louf van Nieu-Nederland*), 1661, printed, with an English translation by Hon. Henry C. Murphy, for the Bradford Club, of New York, (Anthology of New Netherland: Brad. Club Series, No. 4,) 1865, pp. 52, 55, contains a considerable list of the fish of New York, and is useful for its Dutch names, among which are the "Elft," "Twalv," and "Dertien"—shad, striped bass, and drum-fish, as Murphy translates; "Knor-haan," "Swart-vis," "Schelvis," "Weekvis," and "Masbank," (our mossbanker or Menhaden.)¹

In the "History of Hadley," Massachusetts, by Sylvester Judd,

¹ By the kindness of Mr. L. E. Chittenden I am enabled to give both the original poem of Steendam, and the translation of most of the stanzas, by Mr. Murphy:

- "Die groote Zee bespoeld uw Voorste-strand;
Die (als een dijk) zieh voor u Velden Kant:
Door-aderd, met veel killen: die het Land,
En 't Bosch verfrischen.
- "Die van 't gebergt, en heuvels neder-vliên
En 't Molen-werk, bequame plaatsen biên
Op d'oevers van u stromen. Waard te sien:
Gepropt met Visschen.
- "En Prik, en Aal, en Sonne-vis, en Baars:
Die (blank en geel u Taaf'len als wat raars)
Vercieren kan: ook Elft, en Twalft met schaars,
Maar overvloedig.
- "Steenbrassem, Steur, en Dartien, en Knor-haan,
En Zee-baars, die geen Vorst sal laten slaan:
En Kabellau: en Salm die (wel gebraau)
Is vet, en voedig.
- "Swart-vis, en Roch, en Haring, en Makreel,
Schelvis, Masbank, en Voren die (se veel)
Tot walgens toe, de Netten'vuld: en heel
Min ward ge-eeten.
- "So gaat het hier: dat 's Werelts overvloed,
(Waar meê de Mensch word koninglijk gevoed
Door gulle gunst des milden gevers) doet
Hem vaak vergeeten.
- "Weekvis, en Schol, en Carper, Bot, en Snoek,
Ja gy en hebt geen poel; geen water-hoek,
Of't krielter vol von Visschen: die (te soek)
Licht zinj te vinden.
- "En Kreeft, en Krab, en Mossels: Oesters, die
Een beter is als Europa drie
In veelheyd heel on-kenbaar voorhem, wic
't Mocht onderwinden.
- "De Schild-pad, en de Zee-hond, en den Hay,
De Walvis, en Torijiu speeld in u Bay:
En toond Gods Macht, en wonderheden. Fray
Om an te merken.
- "De seldsaamheên in 't Banelose diep:
De diepte, van de Wijsheyt, die het schiep:
Die noyten slaapt, noch nimmermeer en sliep:
Maar werkt, in 't werken.

* * * * *

"The lamprey, eel, and sunfish, and the white
And yellow perch, which grace your covers dight,
And shad, and striped bass, not scarce, but quite
Innumerable.

(Northampton, 1863,) is a good article on "The Shad and Salmon Fishery" in New England, (pp. 313-318,) containing notices of "great hauls" in the Connecticut, and facts respecting early fisheries collected from the records and other manuscript authorities.

You will observe that Josselyn (New England's Rarities, 1672, p. 96) mentions the "*Blew Fish, or Horse,*" as "*common in New England, and esteemed the best sort of Fish next to Rock Cod;*" "as big usually as the Salmon, and better meat by far." Elsewhere (p. 24) he catalogues "two kinds" of "*Blew Fish or Hound Fish,*" the "*Speckled Hound Fish,*" [is this the Weak fish, *Otolithus?*] and the "*Blew Hound Fish, called Horse Fish.*" I am inclined to think that Roger Williams's "*Osacontuck,* a fat, sweet fish, something like a haddock," may be the *Otolithus*, though in a note to the name, Key, p. 105, I suggested "pollack, whiting, or cusk."

Very truly, yours,

J. HAMMOND TRUMBULL.

Professor SPENCER F. BAIRD,
Washington, D. C.

Documents relative to the colonial history of New York, procured in Holland, England, and France, by J. M. Brodhead. Quarto, vol. iii, p. 182, 183. Albany, 1853-1858.

[Mr. Maverick to Colonel Nicolls.]

NEW YORK, July 5, 1669.

* * * * *

Now give mee leave to acquaint you a little how things goe heere at Yorke. Tryalls have been made severall times this spring for cod fish, wth very good success; a small ketch sent out by y^e Governour hath found severall good fishing bancks; amongst y^e rest one not above 2 or

"The bream and sturgeon, drum-fish, and gurnard,¹
The sea-bass,² which a prince would not discard,
The cod and salmon, cooked with due regard,
Most palatable.

"The black and rock fish, herring, mackerel,
The haddock, mossbanker, and roach, which fill
The nets to loathing; and so many, all
Cannot be eaten.

"And thus it happens here, that in the flood,
Which, rolling from the Fountain of all Good,
O'erwhelms weak, mortal man with royal food,
He is forgotten.

"You've weak-fish, carp and turbot, pike and plaice;
There's not a pool or tiny water-trace
Where swam not myriads of the finny race,
Easily taken.

"Crabs, lobsters, mussels, oysters, too, there be,
So large, that one does overbalance three
Of those of Europe; and in quantity,
No one can reckon.

"The tortoise, seal, and shark; and, in your bay,
The mighty whale and porpoise, sporting, they
The power, and wondrous works of God display,
For our beholding."

¹ "Gurnard." Murphy thinks this was certainly the "porgy." As the latter was not known in Europe, Steedman used the name of the European species which most resembled it, (*Trigla hirundo*.) It however more probably refers to the sea-robin, (*Prionotus*.)

² The name *Zeebaars* is now applied in Holland to the representative of our striped bass.

2 leagues from Sandy Hook, on which, in a few houres, 4 men took 11 or 12 hundred excellent good codd the last time they were out, and most of y^e vessells that goe to and from Virginia take good quantities. That vessell is to goe from Newfound Land to gett fishermen, lines, hookes, and other necessaryes for fishing: I doubt not but this coast will afford fish in abundance.

On y^e east end of Long Island there were 12 or 13 whales taken before y^e end of March, and what since wee heare not; here are dayly some seen in the very harbour, sometimes within Nutt Island. Out of the Pinnace, the other week, they struck two, but lost both, the iron broke in one, the other broke the warpe. The Governour hath encouraged some to follow this designe. Two shallops made for itt, but as yett wee doe not heare of any they have gotten.

* * * * *

A Perfect Description of Virginia: being, a full & true Relation of the present State of the Plantation, their Health, Peace & Plenty: the number of people, with their abundance of Cattell, Fowl, Fish, &c. With severall sorts of rich & good Commodities, which may there be had, either Naturally, or by Art & Labor, &c. London. Printed for Richard Wodenothe, at the Star under Peter's Church, in Cornhill, 1649.

[Force's Historical Tracts, II, tract 8.]

Now these are the severall sorts & kinds of Beasts, Birds, Fish, in Virginia.

Beasts great & small, as followeth: above 20 severall kinds.

1. Lyons, } But all these foure sorts are up in the higher parts of
the Countrey, on the hills & mountains, few to be seene
2. Beares, } in the lower parts, where the English are; the Elkes
3. Leopards, } are as great as Oxen, their horns six foot wide, & have
4. Elkes. } two Calves at a time; the skiins make good Buffe, &
the flesh as good as Beeffe.
5. Deere.
6. Foxes.
7. Wilde Cats.
8. Raconnes, as good meat as Lambe.
9. Passonnes. This beast hath a bagge under her belly, into which she takes yer young ones, if at any time affrighted, & carries them away.
10. Two sorts of squirrels: One called a flying one, for that she spreads like a Batt, a certaine loose skin she hath, & so flies a good way.
13. A Muske Rat, so called for his great sweetnesse & shape.
14. Hares.
15. Beavers.
16. Otters.
17. Doggs, But barke not, after the shape of a Wolfe, and Foxes smell not; Wolves but little, neither not fierce.
18. Wolves.
19. Martins, Ponle Cats, Weesels, Minks: but these Vermine hurt not Hens, Chickins, or Eggs, at any time.
20. A little beast like a Conny, the Foxes kill many of them.

Birds are these, viz., above 25 severall kinds:

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|---|----------------|
| 1. Eagles. | 11. Swannes. |
| 2. Hawkes, of six or severall kinds. | 12. Cranes. |
| 3. Parteridges, many. | 13. Hernes. |
| 4. Wilde Turkie, some weighing sixtie pound weight. | 14. Geese. |
| 5. Red Birds, that sing rarely. | 15. Brants. |
| 6. Nightingales. | 16. Ducks. |
| 7. Blue Birds, smaller than a Wren. | 17. Widgeons. |
| 8. Black Birds. | 18. Dottrells. |
| 9. Thrushes. | 19. Oxyes. |
| 10. Heath Cocks. | 20. Parrots. |
| | 21. Pidgeons. |
| | 22. Owles. |

Many more that have no English Names; for one called the Mock-bird, that counterfeits all other severall Birds cries and tunes.

Fish are in these, in their kind, above Thirty sorts.

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| 1. Codde. | 16. White Salmon. |
| 2. Basse. | 17. Soles. |
| 3. Drummes, six foot long. | 18. Herring. |
| 4. Sheepshead, this Fish makes broath so like Mutton-broath that the difference is hardly known. | 19. Conny-fish. |
| 5. Conger. | 20. Rocke-fish. |
| 6. Eeles. | 21. Lampres. |
| 7. Trouts. | 22. Cray-fish. |
| 8. Mulletts. | 23. Shads. |
| 9. Plaice. | 24. Perch. |
| 10. Grampus. | 25. Crabbs. |
| 11. Porpus. | 26. Shrimps. |
| 12. Scates. | 27. Creey-fish. |
| 13. Sturgeons, of 10 foot long. | 28. Oysters. |
| 14. Stingraes. | 29. Cockles. |
| 15. Brets. | 30. Mussels. |
| | 31. St. George Fish. |
| | 32. Toad-Fish. |

Trees, above 20 kinds, and many no English names.

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|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Okes, red & white Wood. | 9. Plum Trees of many kinds. |
| 2. Ashe. | 10. The Puchamine Tree. |
| 3. Wallnut, two kinds. | 11. The Laurell. |
| 4. Elmes. | 12. Cherries. |
| 5. Ceader. | 13. Crahes. |
| 6. Cypres, three fathomes about. | 14. Vines. |
| 7. Mulbery Trees, great & good. | 15. Sassafras. |
| 8. Chesnut Trees. | |

Fruits they have, Strawberies, Gooseberies, Raspices, Maracokos, Puchamines, Muskmillions, Pumpions; And for Fruits brought thither & planted, Aples, Peares, Quinces, Apricoks, Peaches; & many more kindes excellent good, &c. Pp. 15-18.

News from the Bermudas.

"BERMUDA, July, 1609."

"In half an houre he tooke so many fishes with hookes as did suffice the whole company [150 men] one day."

"Fish is there so abundant, that if a man steppe into the water, they will come round about him; so that men were faine to get out for fear of byting. These fishes are very fat & sweete, & of that proportion & bignesse that three of them will conveniently lade two men: those we called rock-fish."

"Besides there are such abundance of mullets, that with a seane might be taken at one drought, one thousand at the least, & infinite store of pilchards, with divers kinds of great fishes, the names of them unknowne to me: of tray fishes very great ones, & so great store, as that there hath been taken in one night with making lights, even sufficient to feed the whole company (150 men) a day."

"We were no sooner come within a league of the land," &c. (Page 18.) (July, 1612.)

"Hogges, Turkles, Fish, & Fowle do abound as the dust of the earth." (Page 20.)

"Angell-fish—very strange & beutiful to behold." (Page 21.)

Whale, Sword fish & Thresher.—"The sword fish swimmes under the whale, & pricketh him upward: The Thresher keepeth above him, & with a mighty great thing like unto a flaile, hee so bangeth the whale, that hee will roare as though it thundered, & doth give him such blowes, with his weapon, that you would thinke it to be a crake of great shot." (Page 22.)

"The whales come in Februarie & tarry till June."

The Remembrancer, London. Part 2, 1776, page 79.

"Madrid, April 22, [1776.] Several of our frigates have been sent from Acapulca to make discoveries and propagate the gospel among the Indians to the North of California; in which expedition, in the month of July, 1774, the Spaniards navigated as high upon the coast as the latitude 58 deg. 20 min., (six degrees above Cape Blanco.) They discovered several good ports and navigable rivers upon the West coast of this great continent. In one of the largest ports they have established a garrison, and called the port Presidio de San Carlos, and have left a mission at every port where inhabitants were to be found. The account mentions the Indians to be a docile sort of people, agreeable in the countenance, honest in their traffic, and neat in their dress, but at the same time idolaters of the greatest degree, never before having any intercourse with Europeans. M. Bucarelli, viceroy of New Spain, has received his Catholic Majesty's thanks for the discoveries, as they were made under his directions, and the several navy officers upon that service have been preferred. It is imagined that those new discoveries will be very advantageous, as the coast abounds with plenty of whales, as also a fish equal to the Newfoundland cod, known in Spain by the name of bacallao.¹—*Madrid Gazette, published by authority.*"

¹First (?) mention of occurrence of cod-fish on the Pacific coast of North America.