

twelve inches ; it is very fine ; has a large mouth ; its large and shining scales give it a silvered appearance, and its extremely large eye, with a yellow iris, has won for it its English name " Gold-eye."

In some of our rivers there is another kind of fish which resembles the herring, and is, probably, the fresh-water herring ; and some other small fish that are found in shallows are, perhaps, marsh fish. I should experience great difficulty in classifying them or in indicating either their genus or species.

#### MALACOPTERYGII SUBRACHIATI.

Of the three families composing this order we have two here :

I. The Gadoideæ furnish us with two genera represented by only two species :

The Methy or Burbot—*Gadus (Lota) Maculosus*.

The Spotted Phycis—*Gadus (Phycis) Punctatus*.

Our Loche or Methy is not a fashionable fish, for the following is a common remark in this country : " How is it that you ask us to eat of it ; even dogs refuse it ?" It is a fact that dogs, however much accustomed to eat fish, will not touch this kind. For myself I have several times eaten it, and I found nothing in its flavor to justify aversion to it. It is not a delicate fish, but when dressed by an average cook, it is equal to the majority of river fish. I think it is the same kind as is called Queue de poilon in Canada. It may be truly said that this is not a pleasant fish to look at. Gorged with food, or full of roe, its naturally short body becomes inordinately enlarged ; and its tail, very much like that of an eel, matches very badly with the thick body. The Methy has scales, but they are so small, and so deeply embedded in gelatinous epidermis that they can barely be distinguished in very many specimens. This fish is a cause of great annoyance to fishermen in winter : it fixes itself with fishing lines in the most wonderful way, and entangles them most perfectly. When taken out of the water it alternately wriggles and straightens itself so as to make it a difficult task to unhook. Its smooth and sticky skin is so much colder than that of other inhabitants of the water, that the fisherman, who shivers for hours together in the intensest cold on the lakes, is not very happy when he finds a Methy on the line he draws from under the ice. They are generally thrown away to feed crows : only the roe and liver are retained. At the posts in the interior, the roe is pounded and made into a kind of biscuit, to which whatever name strikes the fancy is given. The liver, which is rich and delicate, is also made into food, unless it becomes necessary to extract the oil from it for lamps, by which one can only half see, and have, besides, anything but an agreeable smell.

The Spotted Phycis is like that of Canada, but is very rare, while the Methy is everywhere plentiful.

II. The second family of the third order includes two species :

The Stellated Flounder—*Pleuronectes (Platessa) Stellatus*,

The Arctic Turbot—*Pleuronectes (Rhombus) Glacialis*.

Two kinds of flat fish visit the mouths of Copper-mine, and some other rivers :—one of these is called Turbot from its resemblance to the European Turbot.

The family supplying these species does not, that I know of, make an appearance in any of our lakes. A similar remark applies to the family of *Discoboli*.

The fifth order—that of *Lophobranchii*—is also entirely wanting here : we have neither Pegasi, nor any kind of fish bearing shields.

The sixth and last order of osseous fish—the *Plectoganathi*—which nearly approaches to the cartilaginous class, in the hardy ossification of the skeleton,—is likewise unknown in these parts. Of course we have not got Sea-hogs, (*Herissons de mer*) Boursouffus and Sun-fish in our inland lakes, and I am not aware that they frequent the Arctic Ocean.

The Second series of fish—the *cartilaginous chodopterygii*, wherever found, is less abundant than the preceding, but here, it is very much less so. Of the two orders that