

dermis 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*) *Boursoufflus* 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 compose the series, the one with fixed gills is not represented at all in this country. We have neither