



LOADING NETS AT FISHING STAGE.

When he inquires the cause of this, he learns that the people are all off to the Labrador; when they come back in the fall the stores are re-opened and business fairly hums again.

The twenty thousand fisher folk go north in the spring in over a thousand schooners. These are heavily loaded with salt and stores; and men, women and children and household gear crowd every available space. Great fishing firms have their permanent buildings, store-houses and drying stages at their own "rooms," as they are called, that is, a section of the coast—four or five rooms being occupied in one harbor. The fisher-folk live in more or less comfortable tilts or wooden shacks, and sometimes in little troglodyte-looking cabins of stone and earth sods. The essential thing is a fishing stage where the fish may be landed, cleaned, salted, and spread on fish flakes, or on the rocks to dry and then re-stored

till they can be loaded on shipboard for the home voyage.

These northern bays and ports, when the fish are plentiful, are often scenes of intense activity. Sometimes a hundred sail are found in one tickle, or harbor. The fishing schooners, when they come in on a brisk breeze, their snowy sails, spread wing and wing, glistening in the sun, make a particularly stirring scene. The sails of the smaller boats are almost always

tanned a rich brown to preserve the fabric, and under an either bright or lowering sky present a picturesque appearance.

The mode of fishing is of four kinds. There is the fishing with a line and bait, which is the universal method on the Grand Banks and many deep sea fishing grounds; "jigging," when no bait can be had, and the bare hook weighted with lead is jerked up and down, and a surprising quantity of fish are thus caught; seine fishing,



PILING FISH, BATTLE HARBOR, LABRADOR.