

**CHAPTER
VIII.**

common partridge of England in colour, shape, and size, but it perches on trees, and is so tame as to suffer itself often to be knocked down with poles. The flesh of this bird is bitter when roasted, but has a delicate taste when dressed as a fricassée. Among the insects is the musquito, which proves a plague in the heat of summer. The lakes and rivers abound in fish, such as trout and salmon, to an extraordinary degree, and the neighbouring sea is most copiously stored, especially with cod. Of the fossils of this island, as no search has been made for them, we can only say that porphyry of several colours has been found, and that beds of coal are supposed to be abundant.

This great island is valuable only for the abundance of codfish around its coasts, and on the Great Bank, or vast submarine tableland, in its vicinity, already noted in the General View prefixed to this work. These fish are taken by hook and line. The bait used in this business is either the herring or the capelin. The latter seems to be peculiar to the coasts of this country and of Labrador. It is a small and delicate fish much resembling the smelt. For the depositing of its spawn on the sandy beaches it visits these coasts about August and September in such shoals that each often darkens the sea through the space of a mile or more. They rush with such violence to the shores, that many of them expire on the dry sand, unable to regain their native element. The fishery of cod, which commonly commences early in May, and terminates at the close of September, is prosecuted chiefly on the great bank, but also