

whole of the fish should be carefully shaken out from each successive part of the net as it is taken into the boat. If this is not done, the herrings are liable to be much jerked about with every pull that the net receives whilst in the boat, and so they are stripped of their scales, are bruised, torn, and broken, and become soft, and more or less tainted, and consequently they are thus, even before cure, rendered to a great extent unmarketable; whilst herrings immediately shaken from the net in the manner here enjoined, being alive at the time, fall easily from the meshes into the bottom of the boat, where they remain in a beautiful state, with every scale adhering to them, and continue firm and uninjured until the boat reaches the beach, where they are immediately and promptly delivered. To secure attention to this most important matter, fish-curers, in contracting with fishermen, should make an arrangement that all herrings brought to the shore in the nets should be paid for at a reduced price; and no indulgence should be allowed as to this rule, unless in cases where stormy weather may have rendered it impossible for the fishermen to shake the herrings out of the nets whilst hauling. It becomes the more essential to impress all this the more strongly both on fishermen and curers, that the plan of shaking out the herrings from the nets as they are hauled is but too seldom followed, and this in defiance of all the means which the Board of Fisheries has taken to get the proper practice pursued, its Commissioners having, so far back as the 22d June, 1816, issued, through its secretary, an order to its officers to do all in their power to promote the adoption of this most important practice; but notwithstanding all the exertions of the officers, it is still very universally neglected. It is earnestly hoped, however, that the fish curers, to whom a mode of correcting the evil has been pointed out as existing in their own hands, will now seriously bestir themselves to put an end to the practice of allowing the herrings to be brought ashore in the nets, which so much destroys them even before a single step is taken in the process of cure. Another precaution would be highly valuable if it could be adopted. If a piece of an old sail were fitted so as to cover the space from the mainmast of the boat to the pump, the moment after the Herrings were shaken into it from the nets, and made fast over each gunnel, so as not to interfere with the management of the boat