

presume the ice laden Arctic Ocean forms an effectual barrier, and the journey around Cape Horn too long a one. Possibly, this seal might be introduced from the Pacific, and become a great source of wealth for our people in time to come.

I fear I have taken up rather too much of your time on the subject of the seal, yet it is one of such deep interest to us all, that I feel you will excuse me.

### **Cetacea, the Whale Family.**

Amongst the salt water mammals, the Whale holds first place. Although we possess a large Whaling industry here, I doubt whether anyone of us knows how many varieties of this huge cetacean frequent our seas, or what are their chief characteristics.

Of the (Ballanidae) or true Whales, best known to our people, there are the Hump, the Sulphur Bottom, the Sperm, the Fin Back, and in the St. Lawrence Gulf, the White Whale.

In the closely related sub-family, (Delphinidae), there are the Dolphin, the Orc, the Porpoise, Black Fish, Round Head, Herring Hog, or Puffing Pig, and several others not identified. It is not improbable that the Whales also will become extinct before we know all about them.

### **ITCHYOLOGY, FISH LIFE.**

It would be preposterous for me even to attempt a description of the abundant fish life of our sea and inland waters, even were I competent to deal with this phase of our Natural History. I might almost say that we really know very little of our fish beyond the fact that our waters produce in vast abundance, Cod, Herring, Salmon, and other staple products of the great ocean. But there are thousands of fishes and other sea animals around our shores which have never received any attention, many of these also are of an edible character.