

The spawn is quickened into life, and myriads of little fish soon swarm in the stream. At the beginning of May, or about this very time of the year, these young fish swim down the river to the open sea. There, in their natural feeding-grounds, they fatten so rapidly that they increase upon an average, at the rate of two or three pounds in weight every twelve months. The little fish, about the size of a gudgeon, which left the river in May, 1861, would be a fine salmon of six or seven pounds in April, 1863. But the singular point of the case is, that after attaining himself in this manner, he will of his own free choice, come back again to be killed. The same instinct which took him off to sea, brings him back again to the river. He will infallibly return from his pasture to his nursery, and there offer himself for capture, without any cost for keep, attendance or transport. He will make flesh more rapidly than an Essex pig, and do it all for nothing. The only thing he asks is, not to be interrupted—not to be stopped when he comes here to breed—not to be turned back when he goes away to grow. All the rest he will do for himself; and will add pound after pound to his own substance for our benefit and delectation, if we will but leave him alone to do it."

"The salmon lives at sea, but comes up the rivers to spawn. The young salmon, bred in the river, go down to the sea to grow, after which they, in their turn, come up the river, as their parents did before them. They may therefore be caught either in the sea itself, just by the river's mouth, or at any point of the river between its mouth and the place to which they ascend. Now, the old legal maxim says that *feræ naturæ sunt occupantis*, which doctrine, applied to the present case, imports, that a salmon belongs to the man who can catch him first.

When the fish are going up, the first chance, of course is to be found at sea, and this is where "fixed engines" are established to intercept the supply from the river. When the fish are coming down, the condition is reversed, and the best chance lies in the river at the point nearest the spawning ground. This, therefore, is where the "weirs" are placed. The fixed engines catch the great salmon on their way up; the weirs trap the little ones on their way down. But, besides this, every proprietor of the land on each side of the river, and throughout its course, has his own interest in the produce of the stream, and is anxious accordingly, to increase his particular dividend at the expense both of his neighbours above, and his neighbours below. "Human nature," will be the remark. No doubt; but the nature of man in such respects conflicts terribly with the nature of salmon, and the poor fish are killed altogether, while "proprietors" are fighting for them. Half the old fish cannot get up to spawn; and half the young fish cannot get down to grow. We have been assured on good authority, that several hundred weight of salmon fry have been taken and sent off, at a single despatch, from a single English river. The young

swarm was stopped on its way to the sea by a dam or weir, in which only a single hole was left for passage. At this hole a net was placed, and the little fish were dipped out by bushels at a time, to be pickled and sold as "sardines." When it is to be remembered that every one of them would, in the course of a few months, have come back again to that very river in the shape of a fine salmon, it may be imagined how deplorable was the waste of food."

"We want to see salmon plentiful—less of a luxury, and more of an article of food. It is not a rich man's affair—not an affair of sportsmen, or game preservers. It is a matter in which all have a concern, and so long and so truly has the fact been felt, that it actually found a place in *Magna Charta*. That title deed of our liberties includes a stipulation for the free run of salmon and the same object was sought, with more or less success, in many a statute afterwards. We now know, too, that legislation can be applied to the case with advantage, for the experiment has been tried. The thing to be prevented is simply waste. It needs no argument to prove that killing salmon when they are unfit to eat, before they are one-tenth part grown, is a waste and wicked act, for it is a wholesale destruction of nutritious food. It is only destruction of that character which requires to be prohibited. If the salmon have free and unobstructed run, no more will be necessary. We are so fortunately situated, that they come by force of instinct to our rivers, without allurements of any kind. They want only a free passage up, and a free passage down; or at least, so far free that it may increase, multiply, and grow without material hindrance."—*Halifax Journal*.

CHILDREN AND FLOWERS—There seems a close connection between children, and flowers,—children of men, and flowers, the children of earth. Flowers constitute their great natural playthings, and the young heart rejoices in the possession of a bunch of wayside flowers. And between the unstained mien of the child and the susceptible nature of the poet there is a strong likeness. As the child loves, so loves the poet; childhood and genius alike admiring grand and beautiful in nature, and alike regardless of the pomps and vanities of life. The child's prattle and the muse's tongue speak praises of the flowers, rejoicing in their fragrance and color, and touched with sadness when color fades and the odor has departed, busy people of the world, active in its reality, intent on enterprize and speculation, little sympathy with the child's enjoyment of the poet's sentiment; to such a primrose is a yet primrose, nothing more; but it is more to the child and more to the poet—*Ladies' Treatise*.

TAKE CARE WHAT YOU SAY BEFORE CHILDREN—
"Ah, Charley," said one little fellow to another, "we are going to have a capota on our heads."
"Poh! that's nothing," rejoined the other, "Papa's going to get a mortgage on ours."