

covers with rich harvests of wheat and corn. The ocean is our prairie, and it stretches away before and around us, and Almighty God, for the sustenance of man, annually replenishes it with fish in myriads that can't be counted, having a commercial value that no man can estimate. The fecundity of the ocean may be estimated by the fact that the roes of thirty codfish annually replace all the fish that are taken by the British, French, and American fishermen on the Banks of Newfoundland. In like manner the schools of mackerel, herring, and of all other fish that swarm in the Bays and trim round the shores, are replaced year by year. These great store-houses of food can never be exhausted. But it may be said, does not the free competition which now exists lower the prices? No. Codfish have never been higher in the markets of the world than they were last summer. Herrings are now selling in Baltimore for 13 dols. a barrel. Thirty years ago I used to buy No. 1 mackerel in Halifax for 4 dols. a barrel. They now cost 18 dols., and I have seen them selling since the Reciprocity Treaty was signed for 22 dols. The reason of this is that, relative to all other employments, fishing is a perilous and poor business, and that, with the progress of settlement and growth of population in all these great States and Provinces, to say nothing of the increased consumption in Spain,