

where there is a deposit of mud. It appears necessary to the successful hatching out that, the ground selected should be in clear, gently running water, and here they pair and commence to make a nest, or trench for the reception of the eggs.

The period when this takes place is about the last of October and beginning of November—at least in Canada—and at this time it is observable that the male fish has a peculiar formation of the lower jaw, which at one time was thought to be intended in assisting the digging of the trench to retain the ova: but this now has been decided to be only a weapon of attack or defence.

It is most interesting to watch them while carrying on their spawning operations. I have gone very quietly over a well-known ground at night in a canoe, with a torch burning, and seen them lying in pairs evidently engaged in the work of procreation, and once I accidentally had, by creeping out on some logs one afternoon and lying concealed with a convenient aperture to peep through—a capital view of the whole proceeding.

The two were a very large female and a small male; the latter looked to me like a three or four pound grilse. She was hard at work on a gravel bed making a trench with her belly and using her tail as well, while he was most assiduous in keeping a strict watch to prevent the approach of intruders, now making a dart in one direction, now in another, circling round her and sometimes coming up and resting beside her for a moment or two, as if to assure her there was no danger of molestation as long as he was about. Once, as I watched, I saw a good sized trout cruising about, but apparently impertinently near, for the husband rushed at him in a perfect fury, and must have pursued the other fish some distance, for it was several seconds before he came back to his wife.

TO BE CONTINUED.

#### Tradesmen and Civil Servants.

There is no greater sin in this world than ingratitude, but every day that sin is strikingly exemplified in the demeanor of the Ottawa tradesmen towards the Civil Service. Tradesmen and others are apt to speak of the Civil Service as though it were composed of nothing but dead beats and robbers, but very rarely stay to think of what they owe to the Civil Service. No one will pretend to claim that there are no black sheep in the large family of "the blocks," but as Longfellow says:—

"There is no hearth, how well so e'er defended,  
But has one vacant chair,  
There is no flock however cared and tendered,  
But one dead lamb is there."

So it is, and though there are as fine men in the Civil Service as in the church, the army, or any other liberal profession, yet, sadly one must admit there are dark shadows in the Civil Service. These however, are few, and not the rule.

Mais, revenons a nos moutons, the complaint generally is made that the Civil Service do not pay their debts. This is untrue. The Civil Servants do pay their debts, and pay them better than the tradesmen who malign them. A tradesman may live highly for a year or two on the credit of his business, then his store is closed, a meeting is called, and an offer of 20 cents on the dollar made and accepted. Some of the society tradesmen of the city know how true this is from experience. The Civil Servant may not be able to pay the whole of a large bill at once, but each month he pays something until he has paid the full hundred cents on the dollar, and interest too, if it comes to a fine point.

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