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REPORT OF THE NORTHUMBRIAN FISHERY SOCIETY FOR 1859.

The only way in which during the past year, your Society has been instrumental in advancing the objects it has in view, has been by disseminating useful information respecting the best mode of catching, curing and barrelling fish; and it is encouraging to learn from unquestionable sources that the code of instructions which was published in the first, and as an appendix to the second report of your Society, and which was placed in the hands of the fishermen generally of this, and the adjoining Counties, has been carefully consulted by them; and that a gratifying change for the better has been gradually going forward ever since. With but very limited means wherewith to carry out anything like an organized scheme of bounties, for the benefit or the encouragement of the fisheries, probably the best course for your Society to pursue in the meantime would be that of placing a more perfect knowledge of their calling in the hands of fishermen, and pressing that knowledge upon their consideration. Indeed, it is well known, that bounties, instead of being blessings, have more frequently proved curses to trade. Instead of stimulating the recipient to greater activity in his calling, they have almost invariably tended to stiffen the energies of such as have been desirous to be benefited by them.

The Treasurer's Account has been duly audited, and found correct. It shows a balance in the hands of the Treasurer of £85 10.

At the commencement of the present century, the Herring fisheries of Scotland appear to have been in pretty much the same state and in a similar condition that ours are in at the present time. Before that time they were carried on to a very small extent. The Herrings were imperfectly cured, and the consumption confined chiefly to home use; it may not therefore be amiss to lay before the Society a succinct account of the Scotch Herring fisheries since their commencement; because tracing the progress of those fisheries step by step, to their present state of perfection, your Society may derive information which will enable it the better to carry out the objects for which it was established.

While the Scotch fisheries up to the commencement of the present century were in this rude condition, the Dutch on the other hand appear to have discovered centuries ago, the value and importance of the Herring fishery on the coast of Scotland. Before the 16th century, when nearly all the countries of Europe were debarr'd the use of animal food during Lent, the consumption of Herrings all over the continent was immense, and brought prodigious wealth to Holland. De Witt, the great Dutch statesman, mentions that about 2000 busses were employed by the Dutch in the Herring fishery; that each bus had a complement of about 25 men, thus requiring about 50,000 seamen, besides giving bread and employment to several hundred thousand people on shore, in building busses and making nets, casks, &c.; and it was an old proverb in Holland, "that the foundation of Amsterdam was laid on Herring bones." The Dutch fishery besides employing so many thousand seamen more for manning the merchant vessels, which carried the produce of the fisheries to the various ports of the Baltic and Mediterranean seas. Thus by cultivating and encouraging the Herring fishery, the Dutch formed themselves into a great maritime power, and in the days of Oliver Cromwell possessed a navy not inferior to that of England.

Both before and since the union of Scotland and England the various governments of Britain, assented to the activity and the success of the Dutch fisheries, on their coast just as we are astounded at the activity and success of the Americans on our coast,—framed numerous acts of parliament for the encouragement of the Herring fishery.—Tonnage bounties, barrel bounties, and export bounties, were profusely granted, but without any favourable result. In 1750 the British White Herring Fishery Association was formed, with a subscribed capital of £500,000, under the patronage of George III, the Prince of Wales, but in a short time the association was broken up for want of success.

Now the cause of the continued failures in the attempts to establish the Herring fishery in Scotland consisted, not in their inability to catch the Herrings, but in their ignorance how to cure them, after they had caught them. The Herring is a very fat, oil fish; and unless carefully and rapidly cured with salt, becomes very soon rancid and unfit for use. The Herrings formerly cured in Scotland were not gutted and bled with a knife, like the Dutch Herrings, but were cured intact as they came out of the sea. No time was limited for putting the fish into salt; everything was done there as

here in the most slovenly manner; and while the Dutch Herrings found a ready market all over the continent, the Scotch found none and the consumption was almost entirely confined to the home market.

When Napoleon I. early in this century attacked Holland to France, being at the same time at war with Britain, the Dutch fishery for several years was suspended, as the Dutch busses under the French flag would have been captured by British cruisers.—England was also at war at the same time with Denmark on account of the capture of Copenhagen in 1808; and as Norway at that time belonged to Denmark, the Norwegian fishery was also suspended from the same cause. In consequence of this double war, Germany was totally deprived of any supplies of Herring, which form a favorite article of food in that country. It so happened at this time that a German merchant, residing for a time at Gottenburg, ordered from a merchant in Leith 200 barrels, of Scotch Herrings for a trial. Having received them, the German merchant wrote to his friend in Leith, that the fish were very good in themselves but badly cured, whereas if opened and bled in the Dutch manner they would find a ready market in Germany. This information was communicated to intelligent and enterprising men deeply interested in the fisheries who immediately comprehended the advantage to be derived from the suggestion of the German merchant. Without loss of time, an application was made to Government for a new act of Parliament, by which the export duty of 2s 8d barrel was withdrawn and a Curing bounty of 1s. per barrel substituted in its place, provided every barrel of Herrings was gutted, bled and cured within 24 hours after being caught. This act laid the foundation of the extensive and beneficial Herring fishery, now carried on in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland.

Upon the passing of this Act in 1851, the Leith merchant already referred to, obtained a copy of the Dutch fishery laws, which he caused to be translated for the benefit of the trade. The Fishery Board in Scotland appointed Inspectors in all the principal fishery harbours to see that the new regulations were strictly enforced and complied with before granting the curers a certificate for the bounty. The great advantage of the fishery inspectors is that they perambulate the curing yards while the operation of curing is going on. They see that the women gut, salt and pack the Herrings properly, and within the time prescribed by the statute. They also take care that every cask shall contain at least 32 gallons, and that the full fish be separated from the lank, or spawnd fish. It requires twelve days to cure the Herrings properly; at the expiration of that time, the casks are opened again, when the fish are found swimming in the pickle which is formed by the salt, and the blood of the fish. The superfluous pickle is then drawn off, and the casks are filled quite full with Herrings. The effect of the salt upon the Herrings is to compress them into much smaller bulk, so that a cask which has been packed quite full of fresh fish, the day they were landed, at the end of 12 days is only about two thirds full; or in other words, 70 barrels of fresh salted fish will only yield 100 barrels of well packed cured fish. When the curer has finished the second packing, he sends for the Inspector to attach the "Crown Brand" to the cask. Before doing this the Inspector orders the coopers to open a number of barrels, some at the top and some at the bottom. He not only sees that the fish are properly cured, but well packed, so that each cask contains in conformity to the statute 238 lbs. of fish. When he is convinced that all the regulations have been complied with, he attaches the "Crown Brand" with a red hot iron, to every barrel, thereby declaring that the article is good and marketable. But when the Inspector finds the casks under the legal size, or the fish badly cured he refuses the "Crown Brand" altogether. The initials of every Inspector are attached to the Crown Branding iron; so that if he brands casks under the legal size, or containing bad fish, he can easily be discovered, and dismissed from his office.

The history of the Scotch fisheries affords just that kind of information of which your Society stands most in need. Our present circumstances are plainly prefigured, at that period in the history of those fisheries when the German and Leith merchant began their correspondence; or that period when the Scotch discovered that the sole cause why they had been unable to cope with the Dutch fishermen was simply in the difference of cure. The Scotch could easily capture as many fish, and the fish when caught were of course just as good as those caught by their rivals, but the secret lay in this, the Dutch were compelled by law to bleed gut, and cure their fish within 24 hours after they caught them; the Scotch had no such law, nor paid they any such attention to the proper mode of curing their fish.

No sooner was this important fact discovered, than a new era began in the Scotch fisheries. The Scotch, astonished at the success of the Dutch fishermen, and tried to imitate their bounties, barrel bounties and export bounties, but without any favourable result; and an association with a capital of £500,000, formed which in a short time was broken up for want of success. And why? Not because the Scotch fishermen were less expert in the art of catching the fish; but because they were unacquainted with the difference between the value of well cured fish and fish cured in their slovenly and imperfect manner. It was thus, they overlooked the great fact upon which success depended. It was not until the year 1851, when an Act of Parliament passed, which withdrew all other bounties and granted a "curing bounty of 4s. per barrel, provided every barrel of Herrings was gutted, bled and cured within 24 hours after being caught" that the groundwork of the extensive and beneficial Herring fishery of Scotland may be said to have been laid. When this Act passed, the Fishery Board appointed Inspectors in all the principal fishery harbours, to see that the new regulations were strictly enforced, and complied with, before granting the curers a "Crown Brand" as proof that every barrel of fish was well cured, well packed and of the proper weight. The object contemplated by the Scotch curing bounty, (long since withdrawn) was that of inducing all fishermen to gut, bleed and cure their fish properly; because in this way alone could those interested in the trade secure success in foreign markets, and enlarge the quantity exported.

The Board submit, it would not be well for your Society in its future efforts to advance our fisheries, to follow the course which has been pursued so successfully by the merchants and fishermen of Scotland. A handsome bounty offered for all Herrings caught and cured agreeably to prescribed regulations, would have the effect of directing the attention of our fishermen to the propriety, or rather necessity of preparing a better article, if they expect to sell profitably in other markets. Were it possible for your Society to induce our fishermen to bleed, gut and cure their fish the same day they were caught; and could they at the same time establish a well qualified staff of Inspectors, who would be careful not to attach the brand of your Society to any barrel that did not contain fish, put up in every respect agreeably to the regulations of the Society, the fish of this country would soon obtain such a reputation in the American and other markets, as would always secure for them a ready and remunerative price.

Respectfully Submitted,
JAMES CAIE, Secretary.

PHILOLOGY.

The following review of a work from the pen of the Rev. John Macpherson, Minister at Lairg, entitled—"A Philological System Delineated; or, the Japhetic Languages derived from the Hebrew,"—we copy from the North British Review, for February:

The object of this treatise is sufficiently indicated by its title. The author rejecting the Sanscrit theory of the origin of the European languages, reverts to the old opinion that Hebrew is the stock from which they have been all derived. In proof of this, he adduces divers weighty considerations, and not only furnishes select examples of words from Latin, Greek, and Celtic, in which the words adduced have a striking resemblance, both in form and sense, to the Hebrew vocabularies with which they are compared; but endeavours to show, that between the Hebrew and these languages there is "an affinity adjusted by rule or method," at first in words where the affinity is not at first sight so obvious, which proves their Hebrew origin. On this subject he lays down four distinct propositions, to this effect, that "the Japhetic languages have been derived from the Hebrew first, by an increase of letters; secondly, by a commutation of letters; thirdly, by a transposition of letters; and, fourthly, by a decrease of letters." In unfolding his theory, he has availed himself largely of the light that may be derived from Chaldee. Previous philologists, who maintained the Hebrew origin of languages, greatly overlooked this; and hence one grand cause of the failure of their attempts to make out their theory. By his laying hold of the Chaldee element, Mr. Macpherson has taken an important step in the right direction. We are inclined to agree with him in the main in regard to the principles laid down under the two first heads. As to the other two, we are satisfied that he carries the principles of the transposition and rejection of letters to an excess that cannot be justified; and, on the whole, though his theory is good, and he has enunciated important principles, in many cases he has not done justice to the very principles, by the examples he has chosen to illustrate them.

But though our author and philologists in general have hitherto failed to demonstrate by the evidence of existing languages, the Hebrew origin of these languages, it ought not to be lightly assumed that that origin may not yet be proved. On the supposition that a language substantially the same as Hebrew was the original speech of mankind, which few Hebrew scholars will be found seriously to question, the Divine statement in Genesis, chap. xi. 7, in regard to the confusion of tongues, is of great significance, as bearing on this question, and worthy of being deeply pondered. "The whole earth"—so runs that statement in the original—"was of one lip, and of one words;" and God said, "Let us go down, and thence confound their lip, that they may not understand one another's lip;" and it was so. This was the whole that took place at Babel: The lip—the pronunciation—was confounded; nothing else was. There is not a hint that their memories were confounded, as many have supposed; it was only the organs of speech that were so. But the effect of that confounding of the lip was such, that though they spoke the same words as before, the words could not be understood by the different parties affected; they became utterly unintelligible to one another. Thus, by so insignificant a means, according to the Divine simplicity that characterises all the works of God, was a very great effect produced. Now, if that was the case then, may not that be the case at this day? With regard to the English language at least, which we have studied for years with the Hebrew lexicon at our elbow, we have found nothing inconsistent with this theory, but everything very remarkably to confirm it. Making allowance for what is idiomatic, and what is the result of the composition of words, which is not held to affect the identity of any language, we have been shut up to the conclusion, that the only thing which prevents the words we daily speak from being recognised as Hebrew words, is just that which hindered the Babel-builders from understanding the words of their neighbours, once so familiar to them—the change of the lip, the difference of pronunciation—a difference which has necessarily affected the orthography in writing. In our limited space, we cannot possibly enter into the different principles which regulate the pronunciation (though these are comparatively few); but let one be only looked at, and it will be seen how great an effect may result from a single, and that very simple cause. [The principle to which we refer is this, that what in Hebrew is pronounced in two syllables, in English is almost always contracted into one. Thus the Hebrew *rahak*, "to flee away," becomes *rahak*, or the English, *rack*, "the clouds that fly before the wind." In like manner, *shkel*, "to weigh," becomes *shkel* or *scale*, in which anything is weighed. *Shkel* also signifies, to weigh in the mind, and thus, "to learn."—Hence the result of learning is *skill*, and a place for learning *school*. Then there is *bahil*, "to loathe," which in the Hebrew is *bahil*, "to cause loathing," and which contracted becomes *bhil*; whence our English word "bile," which is well known to cause sickness, when it flows into the stomach. But *bhil* is also pronounced *rhil*; and hence the epithet *vile* applied to anything morally loathsome. To instance only one more: Hebrew word for the barn-floor is *gran*, which was also applied (as the literal rendering of Job xxxix. 12 proves) to the corn that was thrashed on it. That word contracted in one way, becomes *gran* (or grain), and hence gran-ary; and in another way, whence graner. Thus, by so simple a change, have Hebrew words been thoroughly disguised. This principle runs through our whole language. Innumerable English words, dealt with in this way, will be seen at once to be pure Hebrew.

[We have only space, for a few more examples, from this interesting treatise.]

Let the reader take it only as a hypothesis that English is substantially Hebrew, and deal with its words as such, and he will be surprised to find how much of his own language can be accounted for by the common rules of Hebrew grammar, without any particular knowledge of the principles that regulate the conversion of letters. . . . What connection can any Indo-European language show between a "cuff" on the face, and the "cuff" of a coat? But here again Hebrew comes to our help. From it we find *kuph* "the hand," which is also *kuph*, comes from *kuph*, to bend back; and then it is manifest how a blow with the hand is called a "cuff," and how the part of the coat-sleeve at the hand, which is also folded back, is known by the same name. There are also many words in English which are the same in form but different in sense; and nothing but Hebrew can show how they come to have that different sense. In Johnson's Dictionary, we have *nef* interpreted as signifying a "nest" and also a "bad woman". What shall we say to such diverse senses? The former comes from the Hebrew *naph*, "to brandish,"

the latter from *naph* or *neph*, to "commit dultery."

This is only a slight, a very slight glance at the prima facie evidence on this subject.

Legislative Proceedings.

FREDERICTON, March 27, 1860.

The Bill to amend the law relating to Courts of Probate, also a Bill relating to the inspection and testing of gas and metres in St. John, also a Bill to enable the Prince of Wales Coal Company to hold property in the Province, were agreed to.

Mr. Wilmot read from the *Sussex Times* some misrepresentations with reference to a question alleged to have been asked by him about certain Crown Lands obtained by Mr. Gillmor.

A full explanation was given by Mr. Gillmor, which appeared satisfactory to honorable members.

The Bill to provide for taking a census was agreed to. Objections were urged to the provision that enumerators should be appointed by the Government by the last census bill; those appointments were made by the Sessions.

Mr. Williston moved a substitution of the new section, which was negatived 3 to 23.

Mr. Tibbets moved a resolution for address to promote correspondence with the Canadian Government with view of securing the touching of the Canadian Atlantic Steamers at St. John, Shediac or some other port in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, to facilitate the delivery of mails. In the course of the discussion the Postmaster General made a full expose of matters connected with his department. Resolution passed. Some local bills introduced.

Adjourned at 5 43.

March 28.

The House went into Committee of the whole and adopted the report of the fishery Committee, and resolved on an address to the Governor to carry out its provisions.

The St. John Hospital bill was agreed to, with an amendment to the first section placing the appointment of two Directors in the Common Council and two in the Sessions.

Mr. Fisher's Bill relating to certain lands of the War Department was agreed to.

Progress was reported a bill for the better security of liberty of subject.

The Railway Contractor's Arbitration bill was postponed for three months without discussion.

Mr. Tibbets moved for an address to pay the Quarter Master General for past services of blank pounds from the money received for the sale of old militia clothing, but it was withdrawn at the instance of Mr. Tilly.

The Bill to incorporate the St. Martin's Mining and Manufacturing Company agreed to.

On motion of Mr. Tibbets the House went into Committee of the whole on the Rev. Mr. McGuirk's petition for the Madawaska Academy, on which there was a lengthy discussion. Mr. Tibbets moved a blank sum in addition to the grant in the budget—lost, 8 to 12. Yeas—Tibbets, Hannington, Dalbray, End, Read, Williston, McPhelim, McPhelim and Scott.

The House went into Committee on the petition of the Roman Catholic School in Gloucester; motion for a grant was lost 6 to 12. The Bill to abolish Judges' fees was committed; supported by Messrs. McPhelim End, Chandler, Smith; and opposed by Messrs. McPherson and Tilly.

Wednesday next is reported for prorogation. The business is being hurried through fast.

The Act to establish the University of New Brunswick appears in last week's Gazette, with the Royal confirmation. It has consequently become the law of the Province; and has been immediately carried into effect in the College by the adoption of its new designation, and such changes in the Chapel service, and other parts of the economy, as were imperatively required. In due time the Government may be expected to nominate the new Corporation, which will it must be hoped, succeeded in conciliating all classes and denominations, and attracting to the University a larger number of students than the late King's College could ever attract. The students in daily attendance during the present term are twenty four, and twenty five are returned to the Legislature as having studied in the College within the last year.—[Head Quarters.]

SEWER IN A SCHOOL-ROOM.—First class in philosophy; come up, Ichabod, what are the properties of heat.

The properties of heat is to take bread, bile water cook eggs, and—

Stop!—Next. What are the properties of heat?

The properties of heat is to warm your toes, when they get cold, by holding 'em to the fire, and so forth.

The chief properties of heat is that it expands bodies, while cold contracts them.