

Brazil will count its population by hundreds of millions, when Cuba will increase ten fold? All tropical people like cod fish, and must have it; and, therefore, if we could produce 100 millions of quintals, we could not supply the demand in future ages; the roe of a cod contains two millions of eggs, and if all these came to maturity, one cod could fill the ocean in a few years; but though countless millions perish, we know that, if we do not violate the law of nature by destroying the mother or breeding fish, we cannot lessen the species. There is another fish, however, the Salmon, which requires strict legislative protection, as it comes to spawn in the rivers, and is therefore easily destroyed by the cupidity of man. It is the duty of the government, as the guardians of the public interest, to look to this, to appoint a Committee to investigate the laws made for the preservation of salmon in Great Britain and Ireland, and to use the most stringent measures, both here and in the Labrador, to prevent any wanton destruction of the fish, or any annoyance to it in the breeding season. We know that, through ignorance or carelessness, this rich fish has been almost annihilated in some of the home rivers, and it cost a series of years and the strictest precautions to nurse up the remnant and re-establish the breed once more; for by an extraordinary law of nature, this fish always returns to the place where it was spawned, and if disturbed, disappears for ever. There is another delicious fish, which is now only hauled for bait and manure, for the little cured is of no consequence, but which hereafter will become a great source of wealth—this is the Caplin, or as naturalists call it, the *salmo articus*. We see what a source of wealth the sardines and anchovies are to the people of the Mediterranean. Now, I am quite sure, that if we had hands enough to cure this delicious fish, it would take rank with these delicacies, and, like the cod fish, the supply of caplin is inexhaustible. I am quite sure that the habit of taking large quantities for manure from the spawning beaches has, in some cases, chased away the fish, for instinct is so strong in all fishes, that if impeded in the operation of spawning, they generally seek other localities. Indeed, I never could believe that the use of this delicious fish for manure is legitimate. If they were merely pickled and dried, a simple operation which could be performed by children, they would be worth at least a dollar a barrel, and a million of barrels would find a market if introduced into fish-eating countries, and not sensibly lessen the quantity which every summer swarms in every bay and creek of the island and Labrador. I have no doubt