

gust last, the waters of the Strait of Northumberland, from Shediac to Prince Edward Island, were perfectly alive with Mackerel. Off Point Escuminac, the American fisherman caught them with such rapidity, and in such quantities, that they were unable to clean and salt the fish as fast as they were caught; and it was reported on the coast, that they had sent on shore, and engaged some of the settlers at high wages, to go off to the vessels, and assist in these necessary operations.

Monsieur Leon Robicheaux an intelligent native fisherman, resident on Shippagan Island, from whom the writer obtained valuable information as to the Fisheries, stated, that although Mackerel were always plentiful during the season near Shippagan and Miscou, yet the resident fishermen were too idle to take them. He added, that they only caught a few as bait for Cod, or as matter of sport, when sailing to or from their stations for Cod fishing.

The American vessels which prosecute Mackerel fishing near the shores of New Brunswick, are fitted out in Maine and Massachusetts; they have two long voyages to make in going to, and returning from, their fishing ground, yet they find it profitable. If it be profitable to them, how much more so could it be made by resident fishermen, who are spared the expense of costly vessels and outfits, high wages, and long voyages.

The mode of fishing pursued by the American Mackerel Fishers who frequent the Gulf, is that with the line, called "trailing." When a "schull" is met with, the vessel, generally of 60 or 80 tons burthen, is put under easy sail, a smart breeze (thence called a Mackerel breeze) being considered most favourable. It is stated by Mr. Sabine, of Easport—who is good authority,—that he has known a crew of ten men, when fishing in the Bay of Chaleur, catch in one day, ninety packed or "dressed" barrels of Mackerel, which could not contain less than 12,000 fish.

If no fish are in sight, the American Mackerel Fisher on reaching some old resort, furls all the sails of his vessel, except the main sail, brings his "craft" to the wind, and commences throwing over bait, to attract the fish to the surface of the water. The bait is usually small Mackerel, or salted Herrings, cut in pieces by a machine, called a "bait-mill." This consists of an oblong wooden box, standing on one end, containing a roller armed with knives, which is turned by a crank on the outside; it cuts up bait very expeditiously. If the fisherman succeeds, the Mackerel then seem willing to show how fast they can be caught; and the fishing goes