[CHAP. IX.

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HOLYROOD POND.

CHAP. IX.

south-west gales and heavy swell. During winter the water accumulates owing to the brooks which run into it, until on the melting of the snows in spring, it stands almost as high as the top of the pebble-beach, and oozes through the upper pebbles. The inhabitants assemble at the beginning of June with their shovels, and cut a small trench through the beach; the water then rushes out, widening the channel, and the pond falls to the level of the sea, and afterwards rises and falls with the tide, which rushes in and out with great rapidity. Herrings, cod-fish, salmon, capelin, and seals then all enter, the water becoming quite salt, and sea-weed growing on the banks below high-water mark. The banks are enclosed when the winter gales repair the breach, and herrings and cod-fish are taken all the year round in the pond. In winter the pond becomes merely brackish, and trout from the neighbouring brooks are found in it. Before the country was inhabited, the beaver and the otter lived on its banks : deer are plentiful still, and from various causes the remains of these animals, and those of the wolf, the fox, and the bear, must frequently be deposited at the bot-

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