

everybody knows, is an immense business. The making of the weapons and the fighting may be out of sight, but the spoils of the war are seen by all. Many a colossal fortune, like John Jacob Astor's, has been founded on peltry; and many a frontier city, like St. Paul's, has been built up by the traffic that originates in the enterprise of the trapper and trap-maker.

OBSERVATIONS ON THE FUR-TRADE.

The following statements are made on the authority of members of large fur-dealing firms in the city of New York.

The yearly production of raw furs in the whole world is worth from seventeen to twenty millions of dollars, and the whole amount of the fur-trade, including manufactured goods, reaches a value of not less than one hundred millions.

The whole number of Muskrat skins alone, taken annually, is estimated at five or six millions; of which three millions are used in Germany.

Raw furs are divided by American dealers into two classes, viz., *shipping furs*, i. e. furs that are to be sent abroad; and *home furs*, or furs for use in this country. The leading articles among shipping furs are the Silver, Red and Cross Fox, Raccoon, Fisher, Wildcat and Skunk. Among home furs are the Mink, Opossum, House Cat, Wolf, and Marten. The Muskrat and other furs are classified under both heads.

Prices for shipping furs are regulated by the foreign demand.

The great fur-marts in Europe, are London, Leipsic, and Nijni Novgorod. At these points semi-annual sales (or fairs as they are termed), take place. The spring sales are most important. Here the representatives of the leading fur-houses from all parts of Europe meet to make their purchases during the months of March, April, and May.

The fur-trade of Leipsic is estimated at six and a half millions of dollars annually.

Raccoon fur is the great staple for Russia; Red Fox for Turkey and the oriental countries; Skunk for Poland and the adjacent provinces; Muskrat for Germany, France, and England.