

FERNDALE SCHOOL.

No. XXII. A DOMESTIC FISH.

Our plenteous streams a various race supply,
The bright-eyed perch with fins of Tyrian dye,
The silver eel, in shining volumes roll'd,
The yellow carp, in scales bedropped with gold;
Swift trout, diversified with crimson stains,
And pikes, the tyrants of the watery plains.

POPE — Windsor Forest, Line 141.

S. But the carp isn't yellow, with golden scales.

T. The poet refers to the goldfish, which is a species of carp.

S. But we never saw any carp in our brooks, like the specimen before us.

T. True enough. Our specimen has been presented by Mr. Thomas McDonald, of Durham, Pictou County, who only a few years ago got some from Washington; and it is only twelve years since they were brought to the Washington carp-culture ponds from Germany.

S. How could they be taken alive from Washington to Nova Scotia?

T. A gallon tin of water will accommodate 20 of them for a long journey.

S. And where does he keep them?

T. In a large shallow pond.

S. And do they grow fast?

T. In a good warm pond they grow very rapidly and multiply at an extraordinary rate. A five pound fish may deposit in one season half a million eggs.

S. And what do they eat?

T. Insects, leaves, roots and sods of grass. Or they may be fed by throwing on the water boiled grain, dough, bread, cabbage, lettuce, pumpkin, boiled potatoes, etc., if they are cut into small pieces.

S. Why, they are just like pigs, that is why you call it a domestic fish.

T. Correct. The culture of carp commenced as early as 1227, in Austria; and at the present day it is of great magnitude in Germany. The annual product of one estate alone being about 500,000 pounds.

S. Is it hard to make carp ponds.

T. No, not so very hard. I will tell you some day

how Mr. McDonald makes his. Perhaps some of your parents might like to try it.

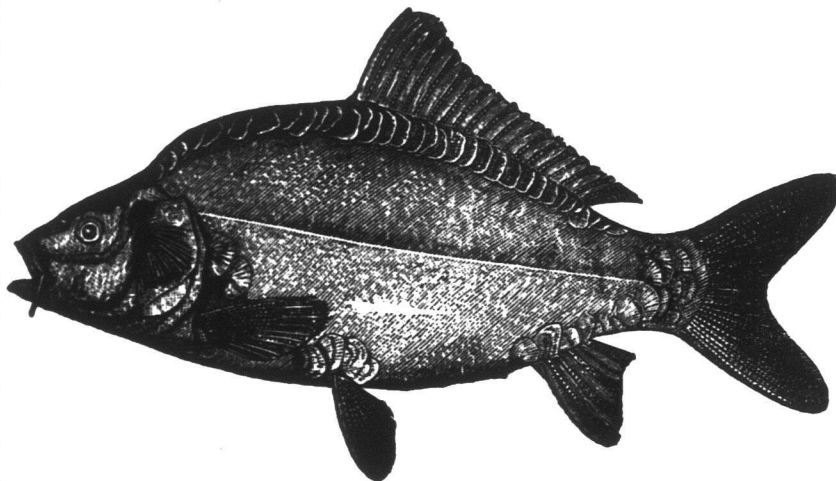
S. Yes. One might change a good-for-nothing piece of swamp into a beautiful shallow lake, with millions of beautiful carp in them; and whenever we wanted fresh fish we would only have to go to the pond.

ANOTHER S. Yes, and a great number of them might be sold every year and a good deal of money made by them.

T. That is why I give you this lesson. You can talk about it when you go home. In Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, a great many people could have beautiful and valuable ponds on their farms. And an acre of pond would return more money than any other acre. But we shall talk of the proper kinds of ponds again.

S. The carp might be frozen during the winter or starved.

T. No. The pond should have a deep muddy bottom in one portion. During winter they are very easily kept, for they go down into the mud and live like the bears and the bees, in a state of hibernation. You would not have



THE CARP.—(*Cyprinus carpio*).

to house them or feed them during winter as we do our pigs or cattle.

There are three kinds of carp cultivated, the scaled carp, the "leathery carp" without any scales, and the "mirror carp" which we have before us.

S. What large shining scales it has just only on some parts of its body.

T. You will notice that it has on the back —

S. A large fin.

T. How many? One. The Latin for back is *dorsum*. The fin is therefore called the dorsal fin.

S. Some fish have two dorsal fins.

T. Correct. "Pectus," "pectoris," means the breast. Do you know any word derived from it?

S. Pectoral balsam.

T. Very well, the first pair of the lower fins are—

S. Pectoral fins.

T. The next are the ventral fins and the last the anal fin. You notice the lobes of the tail or caudal fin?

S. Yes, two equal lobes. Have all fish such tails?