

sons, and consequently those who are not very favourable to the extension of the fisheries; that fish is not food for man; and the same people observe, that there is not a demand for beef and bacon; (a luxury indeed seldom, and but sparingly enjoyed by the poor.) "Why then," say they, "should the fisheries be extended? The fish salesmen and fishmongers also assert, that if fish were anything but a luxury, and to be obtained otherwise than at high prices, no one would purchase it, or eat it." And this may be true, as applied to some classes of the community, and be a faithful representation of the luxury and folly of the times; but certainly it is not the sentiment or principle of the great body of the people. The assertion, however, is verified in some instances, although it does not leave much mark of respect, or inspire much esteem, for those who are the authors of it; for it has been known, and can be proved, that a cod has been sold at the West end of the town for eighteen shillings, and that a finer cod has been purchased, the same morning, at Billingsgate market, for half a crown, after the first draught of the great fishmongers had been taken off; and this occurrence, or something similar, is not unfrequent. Good profits are necessary and proper in such a perishable article as fresh fish, but this seems to be taking it rather in the extreme, and weighing it upon too large a scale; and the