

and peculiarities of the town. St. John's is built chiefly of whalebone and dried codfish, and roofed in with oyster shells. At first I was disposed to doubt this extraordinary feature in modern architecture, but Captain Cuttlefin assured me that it was a fact, and his word is beyond cavil. Nature has furnished St. John's with peculiar facilities for obtaining whalebone. The harbour is locked in by two lofty escarpments that almost meet in front of the town, and in this gap are fitted two sliding gates, that can be closed and opened when required. The whales at certain seasons come in myriads through this passage to blow in the quiet waters of the harbour, and the gates are then closed upon them, and they are made prisoners. While they remain they keep blowing the water all over the town till by that means the streets and yards are thoroughly cleansed—which is a wise dispensation of Providence in favour of St. John's, in thus doing what the citizens would never do themselves. After deluging the town for a few hours, the whales attempt to go out to sea, but find the passage closed, and as they press forward against the gates they soon blow all the water in the harbour into the sea beyond, and then perish for want of their native element. The fishermen then go to work and reap a bounteous harvest. The bones are used for ladies' stays, umbrellas, and building purposes, and the blubber for fuel and light, and also for lubricating the joints of their horses. The codfish is caught in pretty much the same way, that is, by closing the gates upon them when they make their periodical visits in their moulting season, and then scooping them up with nets; after which they are dried and prepared by an electric process, for which an enterprising Yankee has a patent. The arms of the city are: a codfish rampant gazing wistfully at a capelan (its favourite prey) in the distance, with whales spouting in the back-ground, and the whole surrounded by bottles of cod-liver oil. Cod-liver oil is the principal beverage of the inhabitants, and is extracted from the fish caught in the harbour. In the dog-days the livers of the codfish are placed in an amphitheatre forming a part of the public square, and left exposed to the direct rays of the sun for twenty-eight days, and at the expiration of that period a civic holiday is proclaimed, the citizens, decked in their best toilets, assemble in the square; a band, consisting of a bag-pipe, a flute, a concertina and a harp, belonging to a Jew, discourses the music, while the distributors of periodical literature, and their kindred co-labourers, march with bare feet in gleeful procession through the mass of livers, and thus the oil is pressed out, which runs into a receptacle prepared for it, and then it is bottled and labelled for use.

The people of Newfoundland live chiefly on oysters, caught with drag nets in the small lakes that abound in the interior, but the most highly prized are the bivalves caught with the hook and line. Those that are not used for home consumption, are packed in tin