

The Red Sucking Carp—*Cyprinus (Catastomus) Forsterianus*.

The Piccouou—*Cyprinus (Catastomus) Sueurii*.

The Saskatchewan Dace—*Cyprinus (Leuciscus) Gracilis*.

At the mention of Carp, the people of other countries figure to themselves a good and fine fish ; but, here, the impression is quite of another character. When I first came into the country, I talked with gusto about soup à la Carpe ;—an old man who had never tasted soup à la Carpe, but who considered he had, in his time, eaten rather too much of the fish, could not agree with me, and said significantly : “ It is useless to talk about it ; carp is but carp.” I did not at first understand the reason for his dislike : later I had the opportunity and leisure to appreciate the correctness of his opinion. When one has but one kind of food to eat, when, for example, it is necessary to be satisfied with carp,—boiled, perhaps in the water it was born in,—without sauce or salt, or addition of any kind—one quickly tires of the fish, and when this is frequently repeated the simple name of the animal suffices to excite repulsion. The head of the carp is, beyond comparison, preferable to the body ;—but many heads would be required to satisfy an appetite excited by work and fatigue, and one soon tires of sucking these small bones. All the species abound in this country, and particularly the Red and Grey Suckers. This fish spawns in the month of June, and, several weeks previously, they are seen and killed in great numbers. When spawning is over, particularly in shallows on stony river beds, they assemble in such numbers that their crowded dorsal fins, showing above the water, make it appear as if all the fish were artificially attached to one another : and they can then be killed with a stick. It is easy to understand that, in such circumstances as these, Indians cannot absolutely starve, but they invariably look upon the necessity for feeding on Carp as starvation. The Montagnais are very fond of raw fish eyes, and as soon as they capture a fish they tear its eyes out and eat them. The vitality of the Carp is so great, that many true tales about it would be regarded as fabulous. A carp may be frozen, thawed and then decapitated, and yet not die immediately ; and they are seen to strike with their tails, and jump about for a long time after they have suffered such mutilation as would be apparently most likely to quiet them, and to cause their immediate death.

II. The second family of the order that I am now dealing with is that of the *Esocidae*. Of these we have :

The Common Pike—*Esox Lucius*.

The Maskinongé—*Esox Estor*.

The two kinds of pike are a good deal like one another. The latter is generally the larger, its color is paler, its scales less oval, and its flavor being milder is more palatable. The pike is the tyrant of fresh water ; it swallows other fish, as they do insects. The voracity of the pike benefits the hungry, for it takes a bait set under the ice more readily than any other fish. In times of want the unfortunate sufferer often finds wherewith to satisfy his hunger in a pike that, urged, probably by similar necessity, has taken the deceptive bait with its perfidious hook. Providence, who has so severely tried us this year, has given a proof of His pity in the unusual take of pike at Lake Winnipeg and Manitoba. The large kind make an excellent dish when there is seasoning to relieve its flavor, and to modify a peculiar taste, and even odor, probably unknown elsewhere, but unmis-takable here. Carp-like, pike are sought after only when all other supplies fail. There are pike in all our lakes, and in some of them magnificent fish. I have weighed some of thirty pounds, and I believe I have seen larger ones. Pike swallow very large fish without doing them the least damage. I have often seen as many as two white fish in the stomachs of pike, and these, together, did not weigh less than five or six pounds. The numerous sharp teeth of the pike inflict a severe wound, not only when the animal bites, but when by accident, and after they have been detached, one pricks oneself.

III. The family of *Siluroideæ* supplies us with only one species :

The Mathemeg—*Silurus (Pimelodus) Borealus*.

Our Brill (*barbue*) or Cat-fish is little likely to gain favor by its appearance ; some Indians call it “ Ugly fish,” but it is rich, plump and well-flavored. An ordinary cat