

the case with the Merchant ; the higher the article the less he has it in his power to contend with his rivals at other markets. His rule is this,—The price of Fish must absolutely be no higher than that taken by the French and the Americans.

The mode of Fishing for Cod from the United States is peculiar to themselves,—neither the Dutch, the Flemings, the French, nor the inhabitants of Jersey and Guernsey, though the latter are the oldest fishermen on these coasts, are practiced in it. In New-England the crew consists in general of twelve persons in a vessel of from 70 to 80 tons. 1st, The Skipper or Master, who is also the *Splutter* ; —2d, The *Salter* ; —3d, The *Header* ; —4th, The *Throater*. The rest of the crew are common hands, and are usually admitted by the influence of the Skipper, who takes from each, one fish in a certain number ; —all the officers of the crew give him usually one in sixty-four.—They all fish together or in turn, and every man and boy has his binn, and puts in as fast as he catches. When the Skipper sees fit, he calls out “*Strake*” and every one quits fishing,—the fish in each person’s binn are counted ; and, as they come to the number agreed on with the Skipper, one is put into *his* binn.—The Skipper’s binn is counted last of all ; each person has credit in the Skipper’s *TALLY* for what he catches, not counting the allowance to the Skipper, who has credit for all Fish found in his own binn. The Officers then go to work to *Split*, to *Head*, to *Throat*, and to *Salt* ; the rest of the crew to prepare the next meal, and to do other necessary work. The ardor of the crews, under a good Skipper, is often such, that they only take time to eat and sleep, and some or other of them are always at work except on the Sabbath. The whole are bound by fixed rules customary in the port from whence they sail, on principles of the strictest economy and sobriety. The act of drying the Fish on shore is performed also on Shares, agreed on between those who catch and those who dry. As soon as the vessel is loaded on the Banks with green Fish—the crew hoist a flag at the mast-head, as a signal to other vessels in company, who send their boats on board with letters or messages to their respective families, then seldom wait more than an hour, up anchor and proceed into harbour, the flag flying. The Fish are then counted out to the owner of the vessel, who gives a receipt for the share belonging to the crew, retaining his own proportion for the vessel, and outfits as previously agreed on. More Salt, Provision, &c. &c. are immediately put on board, and the vessel sails again for the Banks, perhaps the next morning.

The owner on shore (who probably sails a dozen such vessels in one season) then begins to dry the fish, the people under him being also employed on shares. At the end of the season about the 30th of November, the most convenient and suitable vessels are fitted out for the West-Indies, with the inferior fish, making part of an assorted cargo ; and