

lead. This may be considered as one great cause of the superior flavour of Dutch-cured fish, as the fish must suffer to a certain extent every moment they remain without having salt applied to them. In one point, however, our boats have an advantage over the Dutch vessels, that much finer netting can be used in them, the weight of the Dutch vessels requiring stronger nets, made of heavier twine, which is not likely to be so successful in taking fish as nets made of twine of a finer description. Any general introduction of the use of such vessels as are used by the Dutch, however, cannot perhaps be looked for ; but it may be pointed out as a thing most desirable, that the boats employed by our fishermen should be as large as possible, to be convenient for rowing in calms. Were well-built, well-rigged, and well-found boats of from 15 to 18 tons more common amongst our fishermen than they are, and were these always manned by at least six men and a boy, we should hear of fewer lives being lost—and much more might be achieved by hardihood in contending with heavy seas and gales of wind, and thus much more fish might be captured. But this is not all—for although the fish when caught could not perhaps be cured directly on board of such boats, as they are with so much advantage in the Dutch vessels, they could, at least, be much better preserved until landed, than they possibly can be in smaller boats. The boat ought to be put into perfect order, and properly tarred, and the tar well hardened before the fishing season commences, for if the tar happens to have been too recently applied, those fish which accidentally touch the skin of the boat, will be contaminated with a taste of tar, and as early caught fish are often slightly salted and hurried to market, to obtain high prices as an immediate delicacy, if the flavour or even the smell of tar is perceptible in the pickle or fish of a single barrel, the character of the whole parcel may be injured. It is most essential that all boats should be furnished with pumps, the occasional working of which, if necessary, will keep the boat dry, for nothing is found to be more prejudicial to the fish than their being permitted to wash backwards and forwards in a bath of sea-water, filling the bottom of the boat, by which they have their scales rubbed off by friction against each other, and they are macerated in such a manner as to lose the greater and richer part of their natural juices, and to be-