

man's "flakes" are getting loaded with the valuable cod. Just now it is the height of "caplin schule" with us. The beautiful little fish called caplin are all around the shores in enormous shoals; and the greedy cod follow, revelling in the rich banquet provided for them. The caplin furnish the best bait for the fisherman; and now is the time for his main catch. It is a striking sight on a moonlight night to take one's stand on the shore, and observe the myriads of fishes that make the surface of the water seem alive as they gambol about—the cod fish bounding above the waves, and reflecting the light of the moon from their silvery sides; the immense shoals of caplin, extending as far as the eye can reach, flying before the onslaught of their deadly foes, the cod, and seeking refuge on the shore, where each retiring wave leaves multitudes skipping on the sand. Meantime the fisherman, with hook and line, bulrow or seine, is at work securing the cod, or with his nets laying up supplies of caplin for bait. As soon as a boat loaded with cod arrives, the fish are thrown, one by one, with a small pitchfork upon the stage. They are first beheaded and disembowelled; then "the splitter" takes them in hand, and deftly lays open each fish with his knife, removing the backbone, with the exception of the tail portion; so that each half lies completely flat. Then, after washing well, the "salter" goes to work, piling the fish in layers, with a heavy sprinkling of salt between each. After remaining the proper length of time in salt, it is again washed, and spread on the flake to dry. These "flakes" are formed by stout shores supporting a strong framework of horizontal poles, covered with the boughs of the fir. They generally overhang the margin of the water, or find support among the crevices of the rocks. The codfish, when drying, require the greatest attention. Every night they have to be collected into little heaps ("faggots" the fishermen call them) and spread out again in the morning, should the day be fine. In wet weather they are collected into miniature hay-cocks, with the skin of the fish outside, and covered with the rind of trees. The handling of the fish is largely done by the women and children. When the fishing season is at an end, the fisherman conveys his fish to the stores of the exporting merchant, and, for the most part, remains idle during the winter. As a rule, they do not fish during more than six months of the year—many only four. They have no in-door employments, and but a small proportion of them cultivate little patches of land. The quick returns of labour, the long intervals of absolute idleness, dispose them to steady industry. If, with the fisheries, they combined the cultivation of the land, and the manufacture of clothing, boots and shoes, they might be in a much more comfortable condition. As it is, they depend almost entirely on the fisheries, which are very precarious, and almost every article of food and clothing they require has to be imported. In many places, too, they have but poor imperfect methods of fishing, going out in little punts that cannot live in a rough sea, or enable them to venture far from shore; and their poverty is such that for want of due appliances much of the fishing season is often lost. It is ominous, too, to find, from the Census returns, that while during the last dozen years 29,000 have been added to the population, the number of able-bodied men employed in the fisheries has not at all increased. It follows that 29,000 more are now living on the productive industry of the same number of hands as were employed twelve years ago, and consequently in a deteriorated condition. It also follows that the young and active and industrious, who ought to be enlarging our industries as the population increases, must be emigrating to other lands. Our rate of increase in twelve years has been but 16½ per cent, whereas, were the country prosperous and the population not drafted away by emigration, it should, in the same period, have increased 30 or 40 per cent.

POSSIBILITY OF OVER-FISHING.

Bulton tells us that if a pair of herrings were left to breed unmolested for a period of twenty years, they would yield a fish bulk equal to the whole of the globe on which we live. The fecundity of the cod fish exceeds that of the herring, the female fish yielding its roe by millions. But then a balancing power exists in the water that prevents the bulk of them from coming to life, or at any rate from reaching maturity. In addition to this, in modern days, the extension of sea-farming, and the immense increase in the consumption of fish and salt fish, consequent on the multiplication of railways, are tending to reduce the quantity of fish in the ocean. Facts go to prove that over-fishing will speedily tell on a large cod-colony. For example, at Rockall there was lately discovered a cod depot which caused a considerable sensation. At first immense "takes" were secured by those who first rifled its virgin treasures; but of late these have fallen off greatly, and there is now comparatively little enterprise in the Rockall fishery. The cod bank at the Faroe Islands is now about exhausted, and the great Dogger Bank fishery has become affected by over-fishing. These facts awaken apprehension regarding the future of our own sea fisheries, and show the necessity of wise regulations so as to keep them within such bounds as will not destroy the recuperative powers of the finny tribes. There are limits even to the wonderful fecundity of the cod. Moreover, the cod is a fish of slow growth. It does not add to its growth at a greater rate than eight or ten ounces per annum. As to the food on which it lives, the very element in which it moves is, in a sense, a great mass of living matter, and it doubtless affords, by means of minute animals, a wonderful source of supply. Cod, too, are most voracious when hungry, and will at times eat garbage of the most revolting description, with great avidity. Around the shores of Newfoundland the cod preys largely on the caplin, the squid, the herring, and other smaller fish.

LABRADOR FISHERIES.

A large number of Newfoundland fishermen resort to the coasts of Labrador each season, for the prosecution of the cod, herring and salmon fisheries. About a fourth of our entire catch is taken on Labrador. In addition to our fishermen, many hundreds from the United States, Nova Scotia and Canada frequent the Labrador coast in summer. The total value of the Labrador fisheries has been estimated by competent judges at one million sterling. Taking the fisheries of the Gulf of St. Lawrence along with those of Labrador, the estimated annual value is four millions sterling. Yet, as Mr. Hind tells us, in his valuable work on Labrador, the Canadian fisheries are yet in their infancy. He says that if we include the fish and oil consumed by the inhabitants, the present annual value of the fisheries of British America must be above \$15,000,000; and this esti-

mate does not include much of the fish that goes directly to Great Britain. As a slight index to the vast total of our own sea-wealth, I may mention that the Grand Bank, the chief reservoir from which for three hundred and fifty years the supplies of cod have been drawn, is six hundred miles long and over two hundred miles in breadth. How enormous the numbers of the finny population on this single bank, which must have been growing and gathering for centuries before its discovery.

CURRENT EVENTS.

Our summer cod fishery progresses fairly so far, though no striking success can yet be reported. The accounts are best from the northern settlements; and wherever the seines are in use they have been successful. The cod are just now glutted with feeding on the caplin, and eye the fisherman's bait with indifference. When this is the case the only mode of capture is the "jigger" or the seine. Salmon are very plentiful, selling here at six and eight cents per pound.

The Diocesan Synod of Newfoundland held its first sittings at the Cathedral School Rooms on the 29th ultimo. The Lord Bishop of Newfoundland presided on the occasion. The chief subject which engaged the attention of Synod was the "Constitution." It was decided that the veto power of the Bishop should be subject to an appeal to the Archbishop of Canterbury, or, in case of union with Canada, to the Metropolitan.

Two enormous ice-islands have been seen lately off our shores, each half a mile in length. The "Osprey" steamer struck on one of them in a fog, but escaped with the loss of her bowsprit and bulwarks.

The Treaty of Washington is generally approved of here, as it opens American markets to our fish, and will enhance the value of our staples.

The "Moravian," of the Allan Line, called in here on the 27th ult., and took on board 62 cabin passengers for Britain. She arrived in six and a-half days.

The weather is splendid at present.

ENGLISH AUTHORS AND CANADIAN COPYRIGHTS.

(To the Editor of the London Daily News.)

SIR,—It will be a matter of surprise to English authors to learn that, although their rights are in terms secured by the Imperial Copyright Act (5 and 6 Vic., cap. 45), which is declared to extend to the British dominions, including "all the colonies, settlements, and possessions of the Crown," one colony at least seems to have assumed the power to defeat them. I am obliged to allude to the personal circumstances under which I came to make this discovery. In the early part of this year two different firms of Canadian publishers in Toronto announced as many editions of "Ginx's Baby," large importations having previously taken place of the American reprints of the book. One of these editions appears to have been authorised by my New York agents. The other was an absolute piracy. On enquiry it transpired that the publishers of the latter claimed a right to republish in Canada—in a form and at a price that makes me shudder—any English copyright book which has not been published and registered in Canada. The English publishers, relying on the 5 and 6 Vic., sent out directions to prosecute these gentlemen, but a perusal of an Act recently passed in Canada stayed their hands. This Act (31 Vic., cap. 54), after affirming an author's "right and liberty of printing, &c.," provides that "no person shall be entitled to the benefit of the Act, unless he has deposited in the office of the Minister of Agriculture two copies of his book," to be registered, and "gives information of the copyright being secured," by printing certain words on the title page of every edition published; and, lastly, that "to entitle any such production to the benefits of the Act, the same shall be printed and published in Canada."

It should be explained, that previously to that Act, and with the assent, I presume, of the Home authorities, the Imperial Copyright Act had been unconstitutionally infringed in Canada by a local Act which permitted the introduction into the colony of American reprints of British copyright books upon payment of a certain duty, which duty the Canadian Government was to transmit to England on behalf of the authors. The enactment clearly collided with the Imperial Act, but I cannot find that any effort was made by legal proceedings or otherwise to vindicate against it the rights of British authors. In practice it proved illusory. While hundreds of thousands of cheap American reprints were sold in Canada, the whole amount received in one year on behalf of British authors was measured by shillings. The Canadians were then very glad to get good wit so cheaply. The late Act seems to be an attempt to alter this injustice; not in the interest of the authors, but of Canadian publishers. A Montreal barrister, writing to the *Gazette*, says that the Act 31 Vic. was intended "to authorize republication and exclude foreign reprints," i.e., to enable Canadian publishers to secure from British authors the right to exclude the American reprints. But, as it seems to me, both these Acts are unconstitutional, in so far as they limit the rights of an author publishing in England under our Copyright Act. The Canadian Government has no power to license the introduction of American reprints, nor to impose on British authors local restrictions.

An observation in an editorial of the *Montreal Gazette* clearly indicates the intention of the framers of the Act:—"It is not long since this subject was under the consideration of the Privy Council of the Dominion, when Sir Francis Hincks and Mr. Dunkin drew up a special memorandum on the subject. In this memorandum the important point at issue, on which the views of the London publishers and the Canadian people are said to be irreconcilable, is that the former insist upon the extension of copyright without local publication, a demand to which the people of Canada will not consent." Then follows an impracticable suggestion for a stamp duty on reprints—a suggestion tinged with the same error as the legislation, namely that the Canadian Parliament can constitutionally pass an Act to restrain that of the Imperial Government. But it is quite plain what the "people of Canada" claim, namely a right to subject to unjust disabilities a fellow-citizen within the British dominions. In my own case the wrong done is peculiar. I was educated in Canada, and domiciled there a third of my life. Yet I find my property abstracted, and the only method of redress an expensive suit, culminating in an appeal to the Privy Council, with three years' business on its list, where, of course, the Colonial Act would be declared inoperative, and my rights would be eventually sustained. But my success might give me a fatal claim to historic distinction. "Ginx's Baby"

might be the crux of empire. I should have raised a delicate question of Imperial relations, and the 600,000 persons said to be enrolled in the Dominion militia would be immediately called out to vindicate the right of Canada to legislate for herself, and rob an Englishman. Our re-organized army might be employed to maintain my obscure rights, and Imperial legions march under silken banners, inscribed with the war-cry of "Ginx's Baby"—banners certainly under which Mr. Cardwell's "children in uniform" might appropriately march. I dare not face the consequences, so I appeal to you. This legislation unhappily seems too confirmatory of the sneer one so often hears in English society, that the colonists are eager to take all they can get and give nothing in return. It is one of the instances which illustrates the anomalous state of our relations with the Colonies, and which presses upon us the necessity—not as some say of terminating those relations—but of reconstituting them on some ground of common and practical conformity. I write all the more vigorously and frankly on this injustice, because I have always striven to uphold Colonial interests in the teeth of British contempt.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

THE AUTHOR OF "GINX'S BABY."

DEATH BY BEHEADING.

Some recent experiments by French surgeons on the head of a man recently guillotined have been made to test the theory of Dr. Pinel, that life and consciousness remained for a considerable time after decapitation. These surgeons were Drs. Evrard and Beaumetz, of Beauvais, and the head was that of a criminal convicted of parricide. It was delivered to them five minutes after the execution, and was immediately placed on a table covered with compresses, so as to show the amount of blood which would be obtained. The face was then bloodless, of a pale and uniform hue; the lower jaw had fallen, and the mouth was gaping. The features, which were immovable, born an expression of stupor, but not of pain. The eyes were open, fixed, looking straight before them; the pupils were dilated; the cornea had already commenced to lose its lustre and transparency. Some sawdust still stuck here and there to the face, but there was no vestige of any either on the inner surface of the lips or on the tongue. The opening of the ear was then carefully cleansed, and the experimenters, applying their lips as closely as possible to the orifice, called out three times, in a loud voice, the name of the criminal. Not a feature moved; there was no muscular movement, either of the eyes or on the face. A piece of charpie, saturated with ammonia, was next placed under the nostrils; there was no contraction of the ala nor of the face. The conjunctiva of each eye was deeply and several times successfully cauterized with nitrate of silver; the light of a candle was brought within two centimetres' distance of the cornea, and yet no contraction was observed either in the eyelids, eyeball, or the pupils. Electricity was then resorted to as a more powerful means of excitement of the nervous system. One of Legendre's electric piles, with a current of moderate intensity, determined vivid contractions in such of the muscles of the face as were directly subjected to its influence. But was this evidence, say the investigators, of a feeling of pain expressed by the physiognomy? Certainly not; and this for two reasons: first, because, while the experiment affected the left side of the face, the muscles of the right side retained their expression of stupor, even when the opposite side was the most convulsed; next, because the electrized parts themselves resumed their cadaveric impassibility as soon as the electric current ceased to animate them.

The integuments of the cranium were then incised from the nape of the neck to the root of the nose; the bones of the skull were uncovered down to the zygomatic arches. In performing these incisions, say the investigators, many nerves were cut, of which the section would have been most painful; the muscles of the neck and temple were still alive, since they retracted energetically under the knife; notwithstanding, no contraction of the face, no reflex action was observed. At that time, three-quarters of an hour had not yet elapsed since the execution. The skull was then sawn through, and the brain removed; the muscles of the face and those of the jaws continued to obey the electric current, as when the brain was unimpaired. The integuments had then begun to get cold, and yet, with an intense electric current, the same muscular contractions were obtained *half an hour after the extraction of the brain*. Nobody will say that the brain till continued to act and think, though the muscles still responded to electric excitation. Beyond doubt the brain was as lifeless during the first part of the experiment as during the second. Indeed, at the very moment of the execution, through the sudden interruption of circulation, and consequent syncope, the brain was quite as unable to feel as to express its sensations.

This view MM. Evrard and Beaumetz base on the condition of the brain and its envelopes when examined. There was no fluid in the large arachnoid cavity; the vessels of the pia mater were almost bloodless, and filled with acriform fluid; the lateral cavernous sinuses were absolutely bloodless. The ventricles contained scarcely a tea-spoonful of fluid, and in no situation was the brain injected. These facts entirely overthrow what has been advocated by some with regard to the persistence of the cephalo-spinal liquid, and of cerebral nutrition.

The results of these experiments are in entire accordance with those which had already been obtained in 1803 by the Medical Association of Mayence, which had been led to investigate the subject by the same motives as had actuated MM. Evrard and Beaumetz. The experiments then made, such as calling out the names of the criminals in the respective heads, were much the same as those related.

The falling of the lower jaw, which takes place instantaneously, serves to explain (to a certain extent), according to MM. Evrard and Beaumetz, all the extraordinary stories of the heads biting each other which have recently been propagated as coming from Sanson and other executioners. The fact would be a mere coincidence, due to the position of the various heads in the basket. Besides, the experimenters assert that Heindrich, the present executioner, has positively assured them that he has never noticed this fact, nor, indeed, any sign whatever of persistent life in the heads of persons guillotined.

The University of Oxford proposes to contribute to the Library of the University of Strasburg copies of such works, printed at the University Press, as the delegates of the department may think fit.