

Isles of Shoals remained the main places where the incomers endeavored to make their landfalls, and whence the homeward bound took their departure from our coast. Trade was lively east of Cape Ann. The Plymouth Pilgrims were not fishermen, and they located in a very poor place for fishing, out of the line of cruising of the fishermen, and on very poor land; hence, they almost starved, lacking fish as well as corn. And while the fishermen were catching fish by the scores of thousands, the unskilled but undaunted Pilgrims would strive all day to get enough for their own consumption, and very often fail at that. In the process of time their descendants learned the art among our Eastern folk, and then Cape Cod men took equal rank among the hard/ skippers and sharesmen who have made the whale and cod fisheries famous. When the Pilgrims grew short of food, they sent down to the Piscataqua or to Monhegan or to Damrell's Cove for supplies, and never asked in vain, the generous fishermen even raising for them their stove boat, and helping to make her again seaworthy.

[It was the winter fishery that placed on our coasts a class of permanent consumers, and gave to agriculture the possibility of flourishing. The lumber trade marched beside it. In these pursuits, they who tilled the land during the short summer could find profitable employment in the winter on the ocean or in the forest near their homes. The elements for supporting a family were thus united together. It was the winter fishery, prosecuted in boats from the shore, as it usually was, that furnished, not merely a supply of food to the fisherman's family, but an article which was a medium of exchange that was in demand with the traders on land, or the fishing smacks which came in fleets to fill up a cargo, and sure to command goods or money, as his necessities demanded. It secured employment all the year round to the industrious, and made a residence profitable. It thus also gave to the industrious the great boon of independence, the foundation of