

great fish have to be split open, cleaned, rubbed with salt, and stowed away in the hold.

The Grand Banks fishery is a hard school for a boy, but it turns out a splendid type of man,—hardy, active, and fearless, ever ready to do his duty and to help his comrade. Rudyard Kipling has given a fine account of life on this ocean harvest field in his story *Captains Courageous*, a book which every hoy ought to read.

There are many other harvest fields in the north Atlantic, for it is round the shores of this ocean that the most industrious peoples of the world have their home. If we cross over to the European side, we shall find another great cod fishery on the coasts of Norway. Here, however, the fish are found nearer the coast, and the boats are therefore smaller than the schooners on the Banks.

All round the British Isles we may pass at certain seasons through great fleets of boats employed in the herring fishery. Some are large sailing-boats, with half-a-dozen men or more, and many are now steamers or motor-boats. Each boat carries a large number of nets which hang from a huoyed rope a little way beneath the surface of the sea. The herrings, swimming in vast shoals near the surface, are caught by millions in these nets during the night-time, and every morning the boats make for the shore with their catch.

Still nearer the shores small fish called pilchards often appear in dense shoals near the surface, so near that their movements can be seen by men watching on the cliffs. Boats row out and surround the mass of fish with a long line of nets, and the men scoop them out of the water into the boats. On the French coasts the small fish known as sardines are caught in a similar way.

The shallower waters of the ocean swarm with fish almost everywhere. The variety of kinds, and the different modes of catching them, would take a whole book to describe. The reapers of this ocean harvest on the Atlantic alone number hundreds of thousands of men, and next to the harvest of the land it is our most important source of food.