

capture had reduced the annual supply of fish to a minimum, where it stood till the year 1865. Ten or fifteen years ago, we were told by more than one brother of the rod, you might fish from the upper waters to the sea "without seeing a fin, or getting a rise."

In 1865, a system of protection was instituted, a warden was appointed for the upper portion of the river, and so early as the second year of his administration, the fish gave signs of increase. In 1868, the New Fishery Act came in force; the weekly "open" time of thirty-six hours was prescribed for both sides of the river: and, by as strict a surveillance as the circumstances permitted, the law has since been enforced.

The result has been a rapid increase in the annual take of fish in the nets. Probably, it is this year three times as great as it was five years ago, and equal to what it was in the first years of the net-fishing; only, it must be remembered, *there are now more nets*. The average annual take between the years '55 and '68 may be set down as not over one hundred thousand pounds. This year, including the estuary fishings below Dalhousie, it must be at least five hundred thousand pounds. This year, however, is evidently so good as to have far exceeded the expectation of the fish-curers; for the season was not half gone when they found their tins for the preserved fish (which have to be prepared beforehand) all filled, and were driven to the less profitable expedient of *salt-ing* the remainder of their catch. These facts surely testify to the advantages of river preservation.

If the salmon were a mere fancy of the sportsman, the plaything of a few people of leisure, river preservation could not be a subject of general interest. But such is not the case. The salmon is as truly a source of national wealth as our timber, our soil, or our coal-fields. Whatever influences tend to extirpate this wonderful fish from our rivers, tends, *pro tanto*, to lessen the resources of the country, and to make it less attractive to the emigrant choosing his future home. With the progress of our country in population and wealth, and with the increased accessibility of markets, the value of our fisheries, under a wise system of preservation, will assuredly rise. Let our legislators consider this, and let them not permit such streams as the Restigouche to be made sterile by short-sighted and lawless cupidity. In Nova Scotia, the goose that laid the golden egg is expiring; the same may be said of