

12. It is generally believed so, and my experience confirms such belief.

13. The mill dams and other obstructions on the rivers of Nova Scotia have seriously interfered with the quantity of salmon resorting to our rivers.

*Facts.* At Preston River, last year, an abandoned dam was levelled which had obstructed the passage of fish for many years. Immediately after a free passage was made, salmon and gaspereaux were seen many miles up the stream, where they had not been seen since the erection of the dam; and it was in the recollection of inhabitants that fish formerly were very abundant in that river.

The same occurred at Chezetcook River. In Sackville River a fish-way was made, and fish was seen in numbers entering the passage, migrating, which, before the passage was made, had been driven back.

At Port Medway Mr. Gough reports that he cleared an obstruction in that river, and in twenty-five minutes from the time of its being cleared he counted forty-three salmon passing up. In Gaspereaux or Salmon River, Horton, and indeed in all the rivers in this country where obstructions exist, the fish of all sorts are nearly extinct.

14. It is essential that a free passage in ascending and descending the rivers, should be afforded to the fish, and any plan which will allow such uninterrupted passage will be sufficient to be inserted in a mill-dam. Among others the following plans have been found effectual. viz., No. 1.—A double inclined plane, at an obtuse angle, with about one foot of water running over it, with proper breaks to produce a serpentine course. No. 2.—A sufficient opening or aperture, made in the bottom of the dam with a breakwater situated about ten feet above the sluice, with side pieces to prevent the aperture being closed. This latter has been found to serve the purpose at Liverpool. Another plan has been adopted at Sackville river, and has been found to answer well.

15. An obstruction of 2 or 3 feet may not interfere with the ascent of salmon, provided there is a sufficient volume of water, and if there is a sufficiency of water, or a gradually inclined plane with convenient resting places, salmon may ascend to a still greater height.

16. I consider that nets and wears at the mouth of our rivers and dams, in the upper parts, are obstructions, and destructive to the run, and consequently diminish the quantity of the fish.

17. It is impossible to state with accuracy what the annual produce of salmon now is in the principal rivers of the Province; various obstructions in the rivers preventing the fish migrating to their spawning grounds, and the destructive means (nets, spears, &c.) used in capturing them, have so diminished the quantity during the last 30 years as to nearly extirpate the fish. An instance may be given where at Liverpool, within the recollection of the inhabitants, 500 barrels have been taken in the season, now perhaps not as many pounds. About two thirds of the salmon may be taken after having entered a river without diminishing the usual number in the subsequent season.

18. It may interfere with some of the rivers to the eastward, and I