

mile or two of the College. Rockland Lake and Haverstraw Bay were on the opposite shore, whilst in the hills back of us were numerous ponds and streams abounding with life. Near the mouth of the Croton River lay the old Van Cortland Manor House, on the lawn of which was a fish-pond, constructed by some of the early Dutch occupants and well stocked with gold-fish. During a heavy freshet one spring, some years previous to the time I am talking of, the banks of this pond gave way, discharging its waters and its contents into the Croton River. As a consequence of this, the gold fish took up their quarters in the Croton and Hudson Rivers, and it was no unusual thing when the fishermen were drawing their seines in this vicinity, for a number of gold-fish to be among the fish taken. These were generally thrown back, but anyone on hand at the time could always procure what he wanted and I, at various times, picked out such as I chose. These fish had also from time to time been taken by boys to various ponds in the hills, so that there is no lack of gold-fish in the waters of West Chester County. I may here mention, that further up the Hudson River a similar fish-pond years ago gave way, well stocked with the European Carp that had been brought from Holland. These have also taken to the Hudson River and are from time to time netted there. Being of the same family, they have crossed with the gold-fish in breeding, and the result is that a mottled fish is frequently to be seen, some of which bear very little of the distinctive red that marks the gold-fish proper. I have seen the latter in the lagoons along the railway in that vicinity, eight or nine inches long, and although it may seem scarcely credible, I have seen them lying in shoals near the surface of the water on a bright sunny day, in such abundance that the surface appeared to assume where they were, a red tinge.

The Hudson River is famous for its eels, and small specimens of these were occasionally brought to me. A scoop-net, drawn through the liquid mud in any of the tide-water pools along the river margin generally brought up more or less small eels, so that a good selection could be made of the size best adapted for observation. From the experience I gained with them, I would never recommend more than one small eel being placed in an aquarium, as two which I first introduced took up their respective quarters at either end of the tank, and