

dent should happen that it were mingled, or that the whale's force should be too violent; which notwithstanding having found the bottom, and being able to go no further, she mounteth up again leisurely above the water; and then again she is set upon with glave-staves, or pertuisans, very sharp, so hotly that the salt-water piercing within her flesh she loseth her force, and remaineth there. Then one tieth her to a cable at whose end is an anchor which is cast into the sea, then at the end of six or eight days they go to fetch her, when time and opportunity permits it they cut her in pieces, and in great kettles do seeth the fat which melteth itself into oyl, wherewith they may fill four hundred hogheads, sometimes more, and sometimes less, according to the greatness of the beast, and of the tongue commonly they draw five, yea six hogheads full of train.

How the
Indians
do take the
whale.

If this be admirable in us, that have indolstry, it is more admirable in the *Indian* people, naked and without artificial instruments; and nevertheless they execute the same thing, which is recited by *Joseph Acosta*, saying that for to take those great monsters they put themselves in a canoe or bark, made of the barks of trees, and boarding the whale they leap nimbly on her neck, and there do stand, as it were on horse-back, attending the fit means to take her, and seeing their opportunity, the boldest of them putteth a strong and sharp staff, which he carrieth with him, into the gap of the whale's nostrils (I call nostril the conduit, or hole through which they breathe) forthwith he thrusteth it in far with another very strong staff, and maketh it to enter in as deep as he can. In the mean while the whale beateth the sea furiously, and raiseth up mountains of water, diving down with great violence, then mounteth up again not knowing what to do through very rage. The *Indian* notwithstanding remaineth still sitting fast, and for to pay her home for this trouble, fixeth yet another like staff in the other nostril, making it to enter in, in such wise that it stoppeth her wind quite, and taketh away her breath, and he cometh again into his canoe, which he holdeth tied at the side of the whale with a cord, then retireth himself on land, having first tied his cord to the whale, which he vereth out on her; which whilst she findeth much water, skippeth here and there, as touched with grief, and in the end draweth to land, where forthwith, for the huge enormity of her body, she remaineth on the shore, not being able to move or stir herself any more. And then a great number of *Indians* do come to find out the conqueror

for to reap the fruit of his conquest, and for that purpose they make an end of killing of her, cutting her and making morsels of her flesh (which is bad enough) which they dry and stamp to make powder of it, which they use for meat, that serveth them a long time.

As for the *hippopotames*, or *morfes*, *Morfes*, we have said in the voyages of *James Quariier* that there be great number of them in the gulf of *Canada*, and especially in the isle of *Brion*, and in the seven *Isle de Brion* isles, which is the river of *Chisebedec*. It is a creature which is more like to a cow than to a horse; but we have named it *Hippopotame*, that is to say, the horse of the river, because *Pliny* doth so call them that be in the river *Nile*, which notwithstanding do not altogether resemble the horse, but doth participate also of an ox a cow. He is of hair, like to the seal, that is to say, dapple gray, and somewhat towards the red, the skin very hard, a small head like to a *Barbary* cow, having two ranks of teeth on each side between which there are two of them of each part hanging from the upper jaw downward, of the form of a young elephant's tooth, wherewith this creature helpeth herself to climb on the rocks. Because of those teeth, our mariners do call it *la beste a la grand dent*, the beast with the great teeth. His ears be short and his tail also, he loweth as an ox, and hath wings or or fins at his feet, and the female calleth her young ones on the land. And because that he is a fish of the whale-kind and very fat, our *Basques* and other mariners do make oyl thereof, as they do with the whale, and they do surpris him on the land.

Those of *Nile* (saith *Pliny*) are cloven footed, the main, the back, and the neighing of a horse, the teeth issuing forth as to a wild boar. And he addeth, that when this creature hath been in the corn for to feed, he goeth away backwards upon his return, for fear he should be followed by his traces.

I do not purpose to discourse here of all the sorts of fish that are in those parts, the same being too spacious a subject for my history, because also that I have specified a good number of them in my *Farewel* to *New France*. I will say only that by manner of pastime on the coasts of *New France*, I will take in one day fish enough for to serve as food for a longer time than six weeks, in the places where the abundance of cod is, for that kind of fish is there most frequent. And he that hath the industry to take mackarels at sea, may there take so many that he shall not know what to do with them, for in many places I have seen infinite numbers of them close

Hippopotame
or river.
Horse.

Infinite
multitude
of Mac-
karels.