

miles distant from it, and receding still further, in proportion to its progress. Its breadth is about forty-five miles, and its rapidity is about four miles in an hour. The banks of Newfoundland appear to form the limits of its advancement towards the north; and it diverges from thence, passing through the Azores to the southward, until its impulse becomes gradually lost. Retaining a great portion of the heat which it imbibed in the tropical climate, on its arrival at the banks of Newfoundland, it is from fifteen to twenty degrees of Fahrenheit warmer than the water on each side of it, from which it differs not only in this respect, but in darkness of colour and greater depth of soundings. Whenever, therefore, the degree of temperature in the atmosphere becomes colder than that of those waters, a vapour will necessarily arise from them, which is condensed, and frequently covers these situations with a moist and thick air.

The cod-fish, whose abundance in these latitudes has afforded for a series of years an essential object of commercial enterprise, is esteemed much more delicate than that found in the northern seas of Europe, although inferior to it in whiteness. The length of this fish usually exceeds not three feet, and the conformation of its organs is such, as to render it indifferent with regard to the selection of its aliment. The voracity of its appetite prompts it indiscriminately to swallow every substance which it is capable of gorging; and even glass and iron have been found in the stomach of this fish, which by inverting itself, has the power of becoming disburthened of its indigestible contents.

The fishermen arrange themselves along the side of the vessel, each person being provided with lines and hooks. When a fish is caught, its tongue is immediately cut out, and it is delivered to a person, in whose hands it having undergone a certain degree of preparation, is dropped through a hatchway between decks, where part of the back bone is taken out, and the cod is thrown in this state, through a second hatchway into the hold, to be salted. When a quantity of fish, sufficient to fill one of the vessels, is caught and salted, she sails from the banks to the island, where, discharging her cargo, she returns to her station, and, in the course of the season, thus renews four or five different freights.

The cod-fish is dried on the island, and larger vessels arrive from England, to convey it from thence to the European markets. In packing the fish in bulk, in the hold of the vessel, much care and attention are requisite; and the greatest precautions are used in loading, to preserve them from exposure to the moisture of the atmosphere, by spreading sails and cloths over the boats in which they are contained, and over those fish already in the vessel, if the smallest degree of dampness in the air be observable. A person, denominated *culler* or *inspector*, attends the loading of