

upon having their present barren rivers stocked with as valuable articles of consumption and of commerce as their fowl-houses or their farm-yards.

I shall, for brevity's sake, abstain from enlarging on this subject, merely observing that ample information can be obtained upon it by consulting the works of M.M. Coste and Fry, which are to be found in the libraries and bookshops in this city ; and that in the streams in which it may be put into operation—if there are mill-dams upon them—the artificial construction to enable the fish to descend and ascend to and from the sea will still be requisite.

Having said so much on the decrease and restoration of salmon in Canada, let us now turn our attention for a few moments to their preservation in the rivers in which they still abound. These rivers I believe to be as valuable and inexhaustible as any others upon the face of the globe, but so circumstanced that their capabilities have not been developed, and that one year of neglect will cause their serious injury, if not their utter destruction, as salmon streams. They extend along the northern shore of the St. Lawrence from Quebec to Labrador, a distance of about 500 miles, and are many in number. They are chiefly held under lease from the Government of Canada, by the Hudson's Bay Company, who fish some of them in an unsystematic manner, with standing nets, because they can be conveniently and cheaply so fished, whilst others are left wholly to the destructive spear of the Indian. In the smaller streams on which the fishermen of the company are employed, a series of standing barrier-nets, (which kill indiscriminately every fish of every size and weight,) is used, a process, which in European rivers, would have long since banished salmon from them. But in Canada the high water in the spring enables some of the largest and strongest of the breeding fish to ascend the streams before those nets can be set, and when they get beyond them, they are comparatively safe in the mountain rivers and lakes which never hear a human footfall till winter—which congeals their surfaces into ice—tempts the poor Indian to tread their banks in pursuit of the bear, the marten, the mink and the otter.

In well regulated salmon fisheries in Europe, the fish—by the construction of proper weirs and reservoirs—are almost as much under the control of the managers as the sheep on their farms or the fowl in their poultry-yards. They can send such of them as they please to market, permit the fittest for the purpose to pass on to propagate their kind, allow the young to enjoy life till they become mature, and suffer the sick and unhealthy to return to their invigorating pastures