

That done, they are put into the salting-tub for four and twenty hours, then they are laid up. And in this sort do they work continually (without respecting the *Sunday*, which is the Lord's day) for the space of almost three months, their sails down, until the lading be fully made. And because the poor mariners do endure there some cold among the fogs, specially them that be moist halty, which begin their voyage in *February*, from thence cometh the saying, that it is cold in *Canada*.

Drying of  
the cod.

As for the dry cod, one must go a-land. There is in *Newfoundland* and in *Bacailles*, great number of ports where ships lie at anchor for three months. At the very break of day the mariners do go two or three leagues off in the sea to take their lading. They have every one filled their shallop by one or two a-clock in the afternoon, and do return into the port, where being, there is a great scaffold built on the sea-shore, whereon the fish are cast, as one cast sheaves of corn through a barn window. There is a great table whereon the fish cast, are dressed as above said; after six hours they are turned, and so sundry times. Then all are gathered, and piled together; and again at the end of eight days put to the air. In the end being dried they are laid up. But there must be no fogs when they are a drying, for then they will rot; nor too much heat, for they would become red, but a temperate and windy weather.

Why fish  
sleep not.

They do not fish by night, because then the cod will not bite; I durst believe that they be of the fish which suffer themselves to be taken sleeping, although that *Oppian* is of opinion that fish, warping and devouring one another, as do the *Brasilians* and *Canibals*, are always watchful and sleep not; excepting nevertheless the *sargot* only, which he saith putteth himself in certain caves to take his sleep. Which I might well believe, and this fish deserveth not to be warred upon, seeing he maketh wars upon none others, and liveth of weeds; by reason whereof all the authors do say that he cheweth his cud like the sheep. But as the same *Oppian* saith that this fish only in chewing his cud doth render a moist voice, and in that he is deceived, because that myself have heard many times the seals, or sea wolves, in open sea, as I have said elsewhere; he might also have equivocated in this.

The same cod leaveth biting after the month of *September* is passed, but retireth himself to the bottom of the broad sea, or else goeth to a hotter country until the spring time. Whereupon I will here allege what *Pliny* noteth; that fish which

have stones in their heads do fear winter, and retire themselves betimes, of whose number is the cod, which hath within her brains two white stones made gundole <sup>Stones in the cods head.</sup> wife and jagged about; which have not those that be taken towards *Scotland*, as some learned and curious man hath told me. This fish is wonderfully greedy, and devoureth others, almost as big as himself, yea even lobsters, which are like big *Langoustes*, and I marvel how he may digest those big and hard shells. Of the livers of cods our *Newfoundlandmen* do make oils, casting those livers into barrels set in the sun, where they melt of themselves.

There is great traffick made in *Europe* <sup>Fish oyl or train.</sup> of the oyl of the fish of *Newfoundland*. And for this only cause many go to the fishing of the whale, and of the *hippepotames*, which they call the beast with the great tooth or the *morfes*; of whom something we must say.

The Almighty, willing to shew unto *Job* how wonderful are his works; *wilt thou draw* (saith he) *Leviathan with a hook, and his tongue with a string which thou hast cast in the water?* By this *Leviathan* is the whale meant, and all fish, of that reach, whose hugeness (and chiefly of the whale) is so great, that it is a dreadful thing, as we have shewed elsewhere, speaking of one that was cast on the coast of *Brasil* by the tide; and *Pliny* saith that there be some found in the *Indies* which have four acres of ground in length. This is the cause why man is to be admired (yea rather God, who hath given him the courage to assail so fearful a monster, which hath not his equal on the land.) I leave the manner of taking of her, described by *Oppian* and *St. Basil*, for to come to our *Frenchmen*, and chiefly the *Basques*, who do go every year to the great river of *Canada* for the whale. Commonly the fishing thereof is made in the river called *Lesquemin* towards *Tadoussac*. And for to do it they go by scouts to make watch upon the tops of rocks, to see if they may have the sight of some one; and when they have discovered any, forthwith they go with four shallops after it, and having cunningly boarded her, they strike her with a harping iron to the depth of her lard, and to the quick of the flesh. Then this creature feeling herself rudely pricked, with a dreadful boisterousness casteth herself into the depth of the sea. The men in the mean while are in their shirts, which vere out the cord whereunto the harping iron is tied, which the whale carrieth away. But at the shallop side that hath given the blow there is a man ready with a hatchet in hand to cut the said cord, lest per chance some accident

The river  
where the  
whale is  
fished.