

— THE ARROW —

ON FISH.

There is a theory much held by many people, especially in the Maritime provinces, that a fish diet increaseth greatly the power of the brain. This may be so, but, if true, it affords additional and alarming evidence of man's natural depravity. The devil is said to be the origin of evil and also the father of lies; and in this connection we may say that it is to the thoughtful student of our nature a cause of acute sorrow, that no matter how upright a man's course in ordinary life, no sooner does he go a fishing—always supposing that he knows enough or purchase a sufficiency for his own consumption—than all the higher instincts of his being become, so far as veracity is concerned, confused and obscured. He begins to lie with a fluency and persistency astonishing to his very wife, although she may have been carefully trained in this respect, by the variety of his explanations for being out late at night. *Is the devil then a fish?* There is something very sinister in this peculiarity resulting from eating fish which seems to tell heavily against the fish themselves. Very naturally benevolent people unthinkingly welcome the idea of extending the brain capacity of our people; indeed, we ourselves have frequently thought of sending large quantities of this species of food already cooked into the editorial sanctuaries of our contemporaries, where some such process seems highly desirable; but, as yet, prudence has restrained our inclinations, for were we in our munificence to cause any increase of ability in the way of *ornamental* truth—in the *Globe* office, for instance—the results might be overwhelming. However, we are of opinion that a commission ought to issue, whereby most critical examination might be made in this important and interesting matter; and the commissioners might, while conducting the investigation, be fed principally on fish. Their report would then afford internal evidence as to whether there be any really deleterious property inherent in the finny tribes, especially when fresh, as we would by no means furnish the commissioners with any diet of a salt character, as other issues might arise therefrom which would entangle their judgment. Illustrative of these reflections, a rather singular incident has lately shown in a strong light the necessity of some action of this nature.

An eminent Queen's Counsel has been disporting himself during his vacation in the neighbourhood of some waters where fish may be taken with hook or fly, or in other ways, and of late the rumour has spread all round the town that he has caught a speckled trout weighing 5½ pounds avoirdupois, and that this trout is on view in the window of a well-known restaurant.

Well, we have seen the window and we have seen the fish. So far so good; but here several painful issues arise. We know this eminent Q.C. rather intimately, have, in fact, shared his bread and proved his brand, and hold him to be a man of large human sympathies and possessing no mean appetite. Why then, we ask, should a man like this, after taking such a fish send it to be shown in the window of a restaurant? Why did he not promptly make a feast thereof, inviting thereto sundry fellows of excellent wit and humour, including ourselves? Or why did he not eat it himself or give it to his hungry children? These are queries difficult of solution, always provided that he actually caught the fish.

Of course, as was alleged by a base scullion who reports for an evening paper, he only hired the fish

from the proprietor of the restaurant; then our questions are easily answered, as the contract would be merely that it should be displayed in the window with his name attached, and that it should not be eaten or otherwise disposed of without a further monetary consideration passing. We endeavored to see the subject of the illustration (or rather the illustrious on this subject), before writing this article, but found he was still fishing, at which fact we have less wonder; for if he caught the displayed in the window he must be fired with an irrepressible desire to catch such another, and if not having seen such a fish and hired it for his own for a time, he must have an insatiable craving to own such another whale in fee simple on his own hook.

We may well determine, however, in the light of these reflections and revelations, that this theory of increasing the structure of the brain by a fish diet should be forthwith enquired into in a spirit the most careful and analytically exhaustive.

PLUMS.

Mr. Demdoodle: "It's really suicide, Maria, to go out in this scorching heat."

Mrs. Demdoodle: "It's worse than suicide Lovey; it's self-murder. And Demdoodle went out."

A person advertises thus in the *News*: "Lost, a cow. Finder will be rewarded by returning, etc." We are greatly relieved to find that the mere fact of doing a just deed is sufficient reward in this city. We always thought the reverse. The finder of that cow should relate his experiences. Also the owner.

Funny Young Man (at west end baths to young lady bather): "Come out further, Miss, I'll hold you up."

Y. L. B. (with great scorn): "Thanks, but I object to being buoyed." Great glee amongst the old fellows.

Miss Oldmaid: "I was quite shocked to see those nasty half-naked men floundering in the water; really I felt quite decomposed."

Miss Sixteen-year: "Ah! dear Miss Oldmaid, decay will come with years!" And then the air was more than sultry.

GEO. H. CANDLER.

TO "THE MICROBE."

Oh, tell me how to catch thee,
Oh, teach me how to hatch thee,

Wee, wee microbe!
Art thou on land, or art afloat
In murky waters more remote,
Wee, wee microbe?

Oh, could I only get thee,
How fondly I would pet thee,
Sweet, *chic* microbe!
Down at thy feet I straight would fall
(That is if you have feet at all),
Rare, scarce microbe!

Then teach me how to find thee,
That I may safely bind thee,

Bold, brave microbe!
For if my M.D.'s not a goose,
I fear you're out upon the loose—
Fie! bad microbe! GEO. H. CANDLER.

Teacher: "Hans, name three beasts of prey."

Hans: "Two lions and a tiger."

Texas Siftings (New York).