

## AMERICA.

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## FISH.

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## FISH OF THE UPPER LAKES.

"The numbers, varieties, and excellent quality of lake fish are worthy of notice. It is believed that no fresh waters known in, in any respect, bear comparison. They are, with some exceptions, of the same kind in all the lakes. Those found in Lake Superior and the straits of St. Mary are of the best quality, owing to the cooler temperature of the water. Their quantities are surprising, and apparently inexhaustible, as to warrant the belief that were a population of millions to inhabit the lake shore, they would furnish an ample supply of this article of food without any sensible diminution. There are several kinds found in Lake Superior, and some of the most delicious quality, that are not found in the lakes below, as the siskowit and muckwaw, which grow to the weight of eight or ten pounds. The salmon and some others are found in Ontario, but not above the Falls of Niagara.

"The following is a very partial list of a few of the prominent varieties: the white fish, Mackinac and salmon-trout, sturgeon, muscalunge, siskowit, pickerel, pike, perch, herring, white, black, and rock bass, cat, pout, eel-pout, bull-head, perch, sun-fish, dace, sucker, carp, mullet, sil-fish, sword-fish, bull-fish, stone-carrier, sheeps-head, gar, &c.

"The lamprey-eel is found in all, but the common eel is found in neither of the lakes, nor in any of their tributaries, except the St. Lawrence. The weight to which some of these attain is not exceeded by the fish of any other inland fresh waters, except the Mississippi. \* \* \*

"The fish seem to be more numerous some years than others, and likewise of better quality. The kinds best for picking and export are the white fish, Mackinac and salmon trout, sturgeon, and pickerel. The fisheries at which these are caught are at Mackinac, at several

points in each of the four straits, the southeast part of Lake Superior, Thunder Bay, Saginaw Bay, and Fort Gratiot near foot of Lake Huron. The sport of taking the brook trout, which are found in great abundance in the rapids at the Saut Ste Marie, and most all of the streams falling into the Upper Lakes, affords healthful amusement to hundreds of amateur fishermen during the summer and fall months. The modes of taking the different kinds of fish are in seines, dip-nets, and gill-nets, and the trout with hooks.

"Those engaged in catching fish in the Straits of Mackinac, are composed of Americans, Irish, French, half breeds, and Indians. Some are employed by capitalists, others have their own boats and nets. Each one is furnished with a boat, and from fifty to one hundred nets, requiring constantly two or three men for each boat, to run the different gangs of nets. The fish caught are principally white fish, with some trout. The demand for exportation increases every year, and although immense quantities are caught every season, still no diminution in their number is perceived.

"A fleet of two hundred fish-boats are engaged in and about the Straits, embracing, however, all the Beaver group. Each boat will average one barrel of fish per day during the fishing season. \* \* \*

"Ye, who are fond of sport and fun, who wish for wealth and strength; ye, who love angling; ye, who believe that God has given us a time to pray, a time to dance, &c., &c., go to these fishing-grounds, gain health and strength, and pull out Mackinac trout from 20 to 40 lbs. in weight. One hook and line has, in three to four hours, pulled out enough to fill three to four barrels of fish, without taking the sport into consideration.

"Yours, W. M. J."