

and though the first attempts to hatch them and raise their young fry, provid but failures, the difficulties resulting from the length of the voyage and other causes, have been now overcome; and these distant regions will soon see with wonder, fish not their own, sporting in their rivers and supplying luxuries hitherto unknown, to the antipodal banquets. There is no reason why we should not in like manner introduce the Turbot and Sole here: we might at least make the attempt to familiarize them with our coasts. With respect to the Oyster, which more concerns the present paper, their culture has been carried on in England on a smaller scale; but more largely in France, and with signal success. We can do little more than dot down a few brief notes from such accounts of their oyster parks, as have fallen in our way, which may not have attracted such general attention as the subject deserves.

The Oyster appears to possess a wonderful fecundity. The annual progeny of each has been estimated at two millions! but it requires three or four years to bring them to maturity. Such being its extraordinary increase, we may well suppose that the young cannot all find room and shelter at the same time within the parental shell: especially if, as is asserted, they come forth from it, each with its own minute bivalvular covering already formed; like Minerva all armed from the head of Jupiter. The process of sending out their infant swarms goes on for months together. As the tiny young are shelled out, they find themselves suddenly afloat in the vast ocean: with unerring instinct however they attach themselves by a tenacious grasp, to any thing near at hand, or against which they may be moved by the agitation of the waves. Such as cannot find rock or seaweed or other object to which they may cling, become the prey of their marine enemies, ever on the watch for their destruction: or swept away to sea, perish in the waste of waters. All then that is requisite, is a favourable site for the new colony; and such preparation of materials, when nature has not herself supplied them, as will enable the young oysterlings just emerging into existence, to secure a tenure which will be to them an estate for life: for such are their domestic habits, as we know, that they never of their own accord, leave the home of their youth.

These artificial beds in which the culture of the oyster is carried on, are called by the French submarine farms: the English term *holdings* would be perhaps a fitter name. They are formed by driving strong poles into the soft bottom of mud or silt; in and among which, branches of trees are intertwined, furnishing an effectual and secure holdfast for the objects of their care. This being prepared, the parent oysters are removed and placed near the spot; and left to the operations of nature, the spawn or spat, as it is called, comes forth in due season; and the new oyster beds are at once called into use. But without removing the old oysters themselves, the spawn alone may be collected from the neighbourhood of the natural beds, and transplanted to their new domicile, prepared as above mentioned, for their reception. Of course where nature has already provided a rocky bottom and a sheltered recess, with such fitting appurtenances and accommodation as they require, the artificial preparation of poles or stakes will not be necessary—though perhaps something of the kind might still be useful for the further security of the new beds. The oyster thus provided with a suitable home, will in the third year begin to repay the cost and labour of producing them—those of that age being fit for the market: and each year after will continue to be profitable. Some caution however should be observed, not to draw too largely on this “people’s bank”—lest the deposit being exhausted, your draft be refused for want of funds. Enough too of the older stock should be left to keep up the popula-

tion of the settlement, and to send out new supplies of emigrants for other colonies.

One word as to the cost, and the pecuniary returns—for we are aware that in every speculation like this, the question is, will it pay? And on this point we cannot do better than make a short extract from a French piscicultural report on the subject. The total expense of forming an oyster bed as therein stated was 221 francs—equal to about £11 1s—of our money. In this there were three hundred fascines used, on each of which it was estimated there were 20,000 oysters—six millions in all; which at twenty francs a thousand, or their equivalent here, twenty shillings, would give 120,000 or £6000. This may be and certainly seems rather an exaggerated statement: but making a large and liberal allowance for this, the profit must still be very great: and pisciculture, at least this branch of it, would appear to offer greater inducements to embark in it, than the culture of the fields or the raising of the flocks and herds that fed on them.

We have been induced to state these particulars, that we may call the attention of others to the subject, with whose disposition, habits and pursuits, it may be more congenial; and whose speculative energy may take it up, and turn it to useful account. The Legislature has encouraged agriculture and the breed of horses and cattle: why should it not aid and promote pisciculture as well. If no individual should feel disposed to engage in such an enterprize singly, why might not a company be formed to undertake it. And lastly let us ask of those whose scientific acquirements and studies, or whose practical skill and information, may enable them to answer the question, why may not such a submarine oyster farm as we have spoken of, be formed almost at our very doors, in the capacious and sheltered waters of Bedford Basin. There, we have already, another excellent and highly prized shell-fish—the scallop: though from the want either of a little exertion, or the skill to dredge for them—or of the knowledge perhaps, that they are there, and ready to reward the labour of those who will seek for them, our market remains still unsupplied with this other delicious esculent.

#### THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION.

Mr. Lincoln as was to be anticipated has been re-elected to the Presidency of the United States. The importance of the recent election is somewhat marred by the reflection that it was a sham. The United States army reseated Mr. Lincoln in the presidential chair just as the Pretorian guards, or the Turkish Janissaries raised to the throne in other times the tyrant who paid them best. It is the old story of a republic merging into a despotism. The Republic in some moment of peril wants an army. That army must have a head, that head if he keeps the good will of the army can laugh at the constitution. The head of the army in this case is the President. The President pays it, and were Mr. Lincoln not re-elected, its very existence might become unnecessary. The rest has followed as a matter of course. Still though it has been found necessary that the army should turn the scale in favour of Mr. Lincoln, it is undeniable that there is still a very large minority in the States really anxious for a prolongation of the war. This party could hardly have chosen a better President than Mr. Lincoln. If the war is to be continued it is at least better to have in office a lot of men who have had four years experience, than a bevy of raw recruits with no experience of war government whatever. When we consider the vast number of appointments which would have changed hands had General McClellan been elected, the cogency of this argument becomes still more apparent. In the war office, and in the navy department, new and untried men would have succeeded those who after three years’ o-