

and lobsters abound; which the people catch for the London market, but refuse to eat, even when half starved.

The *John Dory* is reckoned by epicures one of the choicest of fish; but in Devonshire, where it abounds, and also in Ireland, it used to be thrown away as unfit for food. There seems to be some superstition connected with this; as it is said that a Devonshire cook-maid flatly refused even to dress it.

EELS, which are abundant and of good quality, in Cumberland and Westmoreland, and also in Scotland, are regarded by the people there with as much disgust as snakes.

SKATE, which is in high estimation in England, in Ireland is hardly ever eaten, except by the fishermen.

SCALLOPS, on the other hand, which are reckoned a dainty in Ireland, are hardly ever eaten in England; and though they are abundant on many of the coasts, few of the English have any idea that they are eatable.

THE CUTTLE-FISH (that kind which produces the inky fluid), though found on our coasts is not eaten by us; but at Naples it is highly esteemed; and travellers report that it tastes like veal. Cock-chafers are, by the Italians, candied, and served up with other confectionery.

THE ECHINAS, or Sea-egg, is also unknown to us as food, but is reckoned a delicacy in the West Indies.

THE HEDGE-HOG no one in England thinks of eating (either "*a la sauce piquante*," or otherwise), except the gipsies, and some who have joined them, and who report that it is better than rabbit.

The sailor in the English and Dutch whalers do not eat the flesh of the whale. But those in the French whalers (with their well-known national skill in cookery, are said to make a palatable dish of it.

By almost all the lower classes in England venison and game of all kinds are held in abhorrence; and so are fresh figs.

By the Australian savages, frogs, snakes, large moths, and grubs picked out of rotten wood, all of which the English settlers turn from with disgust, are esteemed as dainties; but they are shocked at our eating oysters.

Milk, as an article of food (except for sucking babies), is loathed by the South Sea Islanders. Goats have been introduced into several of the islands; but the people deride the settlers for using their milk, and ask them why they do not milk the sores. On the other hand, dogs and rats are favourite articles of food with them.

These last (as is well known) are often eaten by the Chinese; who also eat salted earth-worms, and a kind of sea-slug (*Holothuria*), which most Europeans would turn from with disgust.

In the narrative of Anson's voyage, is a full account of the prejudice of the South Americans (both Creoles and Indians) against TURTLE, as poisonous. The prisoners cap-

tured in the prize ships warned our sailors against eating it, and for some time lived on bad ship-beef; but seeing that our men threw on the turtle, they began to eat it; at first sparingly, and at length heartily. And when set ashore and liberated, they declared that they blessed the day of their capture, which had introduced them to a plentiful supply of wholesome and delicious food.

HORSE-FLESH, which most Europeans would refuse to eat except in great extremity, is preferred by the Tartars to all other; and the flesh of a wild ass's colt was greatly esteemed by the ancient Romans.

As for pork, it is on religious grounds that Jews and Mohammedans abstain from it (as the Hindus do from beef,) but the Christians of the East seem to have nearly an equal aversion to it; and the like prevailed to a great degree, till lately, in Scotland also. See *Waverley* and *The Fortunes of Nigel*.)

The large shell-snail, called Escargot, was a favourite dainty with the ancient Romans, and still is so in a great part of the south of Europe, though most Englishmen would be half-starved before they would eat it.

It is said that in Vienna the large wood-ants are served up and eaten alive! And small land-crabs are eaten alive in China.

The Iguana, a large species of lizard, is reckoned a great dainty in some of the West India Islands. And the monkey and the alligator are eaten both in Africa and in South America; and some travellers who have overcome their prejudices, have pronounced them to be very good eating. A large crocodile or alligator, indeed, is said to have a strong musky flavour; but a young one tastes much like a skate.

Even when the same substances are eaten in different countries, there is often a strange difference in the mode of preparing them. Both we and the Icelanders use butter, but they store it up without salt, till it is rancid and sour.

We agree with the Abyssinians in liking beef; but they would probably object as much to the "Roast-beef of Old England," as we should to the half-living morsels of raw beef, in which they delight.

MAIZE has been introduced into New Zealand by the missionaries; and the people cultivate and highly esteem it. But their mode of preparing it for food is to Europeans most disgusting. They steep it in water till it is putrid, and then make it into a kind of porridge, which emits a most intolerable stench.

HUMAN FLESH has been, and still is, eaten in many parts of the world; and that by people considerably above the lowest rank of savages; such as the Fiji Islanders, and an Indian people called the Batta who are said even to have a written language.

And even in cannibalism there are great diversities. Some nations eat their enemies, and some their friends. Herodotus relates that a Persian king asked the Indian soldiers