

*Sharks, Hammer-head, Saw-fish.* These tyrants of the salt sea do not trouble our fresh water ; I suppose, too, that they do not like our frozen ocean. I have the same idea also about Ray and Lampreys.

#### IV. SEVENTH ORDER.

##### *Sturionideæ*

The seventh order—which is the first of the second series, or that with free gills,—comprehends two *genera*, or families, as follows :—

The Rupert's Land Sturgeon—*Acipenser Rupercainus*.

The Ruddy Sturgeon—*Acipenser Rubicundus*.

There are Sturgeon in North America as well as in Northern Asia. Not only does the Pacific Ocean send them in crowded shoals into the rivers flowing from this country, but our lakes are not without them. This large fish delights in a part of this territory : it willingly frequents Lake Winnipeg, and nearly all the important rivers flowing into and out of it ; there are some in the lower part of English River, but they do not ascend beyond the fall at Frog Portage, and they try in vain to get over Carp Rapids in Rapid River, a tributary of the Saskatchewan ; so that the neighborhood of Frog Portage is the northern limit to which they reach in the interior of the country. Nor are they found to the west of this point in the same latitude ; but, to the south and east they are generally distributed. In our great central basin they are found in abundance. There are very fine sturgeon in Lake Winnipeg : I have seen them seven feet long and one hundred and fifty pounds in weight. The fish is excellent to eat : it furnishes a great deal of oil, and its air-bladder, simply dried, supplies the very useful isinglass of commerce.

The Ruddy Sturgeon is much smaller than the common sturgeon ; its head is more elongated, and the cartilages are more prominent.

Salt provisions are as yet not much used here, and salt is so dear that salting sturgeon has not hitherto been thought of ; but such a method of preserving them would be more profitable than the plan of merely drying some pieces adopted by the Indians.