

CHAPTER X.

WHITE FISH OF THE LAKES—SHAD SALMON—AMERICAN SHAD—
MOON-EYE—BEAVER FISH—GAR OR BILL-FISH—HABITS, &c.—
TOM-COD OR FROST FISH—BURBOT OR LING—EEL-POUT.

GENUS COREGONUS.—COREGONUS ALBUS.—(*White Fish of the Lakes.*)—This fish is of a bluish grey on the back, lighter on the sides, white on the body; length from eighteen to twenty inches. It is most abundant in Lake Huron, and found also in Lakes Erie and Ontario. Dr. Richardson (vol. 3, p. 196,) asserts that it does not exist below the Falls of Niagara; but this is erroneous, as it is found in many of the smaller lakes connected with the St. Lawrence. It is universally considered a delicacy, and nearly all are disposed to acquiesce in the opinion of Charlevoix: "whether fresh or salted, nothing of the fish kind can excel it. In hot weather it should be either cooked or salted soon after it is taken, as it quickly becomes soft, and is spoiled. It is excellent either boiled or fried." The mode of cooking it at the North West, according to Dr. Richardson, is as follows: "After the fish is cleaned, and the scales scraped off, it is cut in several pieces, which are put in a thin copper kettle with water enough to cover them, and placed over a slow fire. As soon as the water is on the point of boiling, the kettle is taken off, shaken by a semicircular motion of the hand backwards and forwards, and replaced on the fire for a short time. If the shaking be not attended to at the proper moment, or be unskillfully performed, the fish coagulating too suddenly, becomes comparatively too dry for the taste, and the soup is poor." The white fish is very thick and fleshy, and on account of the smallness of the head, fins and intestines, the waste in dressing is less than in any other fish. It subsists principally upon small molluscous animals, and aquatic algae. Thomson says he has found more than 100 univalve and bivalve shells in the stomach of a single fish.

COREGONUS CLUPEIFORMIS.—(*Common Shad-Salmon.*)—Body more elongated than the preceding, compressed, arched above and beneath; length one to two feet, caudal tail forked; found in Lakes