

whole city. There be other brooks, where after the finelt cometh the herring, with like multitude, as we have already marked elsewhere. *Item*, the pilchers do come in their season, in such abundance, that sometimes, willing to have something more for our supper than ordinary, in less than the space of an hour, we had taken enough of them to serve us for three days. The dolphins, sturgeons and salmons do get to the head of the river in the said *Port Royal*, where such quantity of them are, that they carried away the nets which we had laid for them, by reason of the multitude of them that we saw there. In all places fish abound there in like manner, as we our selves have seen. The savages do make a hurdle, or wear, that crolieth the brook, which they hold almost up strait, propped against wooden bars, archwise, and leave there a space for the fish to pass, which space they stop when the tide doth retire, and all the fish are found stayed in such a multitude that they suffer them to be lost. And as for the dolphins, sturgeons and salmons, they take them after that manner or do strike them with harping irons, so that these people are happy; for there is nothing in the world so good as these fresh meats. And I find by my reckoning that *Pythagoras* was very ignorant, forbidding in his fair golden sentences the use of fish without distinction. One may excuse him, in that fish being dumb hath some conformity with his sect, wherein dumbness (or silence) was much commended. It is also said that he did it because that fish is nourished in an element enemy to mankind. *Item*, that it is a great sin to kill and to eat a creature that doth not hurt us. *Item*, that it is a delicious and luxurious meat, not of necessity (as indeed in the *hieroglyphics* of *Orus Apollo*, fish is put for a mark of delicacy and voluptuousness). *Item* that he (the said *Pythagoras*) did eat but meats that might be offered to the gods; which is not done with fish, and other such toys recited by *Plutarch* in his *Conversal Questions*. But all those superstitions be foolish; and I would fain demand of such a man, if being in *Canada* he had rather die for hunger than to eat fish. So many anciently to follow their own fancies, and to say these be we, have forbidden their followers the use of meats that God hath given to man, and sometimes lay'd yokes upon men that they themselves would not bear. Now whatsoever the philosophy of *Pythagoras* is, I am none of his. I find better the rule of our good religious men, which please themselves in eating of flesh, which I liked well in *New France*, neither am I yet displeased when I meet with such fare. If

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this philosopher did live with *Ambrosia* and o. the food of the gods, and not of fish, of which none are sacrificed unto them; our said good religious, as the *Cordeliers*, or *Franciscans* of *St. Malo*, and others of the maritime towns, together with the priests, may say that in eating sometimes fish, they eat of the meat consecrated to God. For when the *Newfoundlandmen* do meet with some wonderful fair cod, they make of it a *Sanctorum*, so do they call it, and do vow and consecrate it to *St. Francis*, *St. Nicholas*, *St. Leonard* and others, head and all, whereas in their fishing they cast the heads into the sea.

I should be forced to make a whole book if I would discourse of all the fish that are common to the *Brasilians*, *Floridians*, *Armouchiquois*, *Canadians*, and *Souriquois*. But I will restrain myself to two or three, having first told that in *Port Royal* there are great beds of muscles, wherewith we did fill our shallops, when that sometimes we went into those parts. There be also scallops twice as big as oysters in quantity. *Item*, cockles, which have never failed us; As also there are *chatagnes de mer*, sea chefnuts, the most delicious fish that is possible to be. *Item*, crabs and lobsters, those be the shell-fish; but one must take the pleasure to fetch them, and are not all in one place. Now the said port being eight leagues compass, there is (by the above-said philosophers leave) good sport to row in it for so pleasant a fishing.

And seeing we are in the country where the cods are taken, I will not yet leave off work, until I have spoken something thereof. For so many people and in so great number go to fetch them out of all the parts of *Europe* every year, that I know not from whence such a swarm may come. The cods that be brought into these parts are either dry or wet. The fishing of the wet fish is on the bank in the open sea, on this side *Newfoundland*. Fifteen or twenty (more or less) mariners have (very one a line (it is a cord) of forty or fifty fathoms long, at the end whereof is a hook baited, and a lead of three pounds weight to bring it to the bottom; with this implement they fish their cods, which are so greedy, that no sooner let down, but as soon caught, where good fishing is. The fish being drawn a ship-board, there are boards in form of narrow tables along the ship where the fish are dressed. There is one that cutteth off their heads and catcheth them commonly in the sea; another cutteth their bellies and garbellet them, and sendeth back to his fellow the biggest part of the back-bone which he cutteth away.

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Muscles.

Scallops.

Cockles.

Sea chefnuts.

Crabs.

Lobsters.

A port of eight leagues compass.

The fishing of cod.