

their wants, than in any of the cases above detailed; which most of them minister to our pleasures, rather than our sustenance. *When the time of the singing birds is come, and the voice of the nightingale is heard in our land;* when the swallow and the swift delight us by their rapid and varied motions, now skimming the surface of the waters, now darting, either aloft or with more humble flight over the earth; when the carolling lark ascends towards heaven, teaching us to look up and learn from her where to direct the best affections of our hearts; these all excite in us delightful sensations, and merit our grateful acknowledgment, but still they contribute little or nothing to the means of life. The locusts indeed, who headed the list of emigrators, at the same time that they lay waste a country, supply its inhabitants with food, and thus make some recompence for their ravages; and a considerable proportion of the winter birds mentioned under the last head, as the swimmers* and the waders,† furnish our tables with dainty meats; but they come not in such numbers as to add materially to the general stock of food, or to contribute to the maintenance of the poor, as well as to the enjoyments of the rich. The animals I allude to under the present head, form the sole food of some nations, and contribute a vast and cheap supply that covers the table of the poor man with plenty. The migrating *fishes* are one of the greatest and most invaluable gifts of the Creator to his creature man, by which thousands and thousands support themselves and their families; and which, at certain periods, form the food of millions. Of the proceedings of the principal of these fishes, I shall now give a brief account.

I begin with one of the *cartilaginous* fishes—the *Sturgeon*. There are two noted species of this fish, which is related to the shark, the one is called the sturgeon‡ by way of emi-

* Natatores.

† Grallatores.

‡ Accipenser Sturio.