

nence, and the other the huso.* The latter is found only in the Caspian and Black Seas, and the Don, the Volga, and other rivers that flow into them. It is stated to be much larger than the sturgeon: Pallas describes one that weighed 2800 pounds, which it is conjectured must have been nearly forty feet long. Its ordinary length is stated to be twenty-five feet, which is the maximum of the sturgeon. The numbers of this species far exceed those of the latter, the caviar is usually made of its spawn, which equals nearly a third of the weight of the whole fish, from whence we may conjecture the infinite number of eggs that it contains. Professor Pallas gives a very interesting history of the manner in which these enormous fish are taken in the Volga, and the Saiek, which discharge their waters into the Caspian. And it seems really wonderful that so wild and illiterate a people as the Tartars, who have no acquaintance with the arts and sciences, should on this occasion show as much genius and invention as the most enlightened nations. The huso enters the rivers to spawn earlier than the sturgeon, generally about mid-winter, when they are still covered with ice. At this time the natives construct dikes across the rivers in certain parts, formed with piles, leaving no interval that the huso can pass through; in the centre of the dike is an angle opening to the current, which consequently is an entering angle to the fish ascending the stream; at the summit of this angle is an opening, which leads into a kind of chamber formed with cord, or osier hurdles, according to the season of the year. Above the opening is a kind of scaffold, and a little cabin, where the fishermen can retire and warm themselves or repose, when they are not wanted abroad. No sooner is the huso entered into the chamber, which is known by the motion of the water, than the fishermen on the scaffold let fall a door, which prevents its return

* A. Huso.