

that I am speaking of the *Cod-fish*.\* This valuable animal belongs to the class of fishes with a bony skeleton, and the tribe of *Jugulars*, or those whose ventral fins are nearer the mouth than the pectoral. It frequents shallows and sand-banks, between the fortieth and sixtieth degrees of North Latitude, both in the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, where it is taken in infinite numbers. The fishery for it employs both European and American seamen and vessels in abundance. The most celebrated is that on the great bank of Newfoundland, where thousands of men are employed in catching, salting, and barreling these fish, and whence they are dispersed principally into the Catholic countries, where they form a considerable portion of the food of the people, especially during Lent and other fasts.

The cod-fish makes for the coast at spawning time, going northward, this takes place towards the end of winter or the beginning of spring. Leeuwenhoek counted more than nine millions of eggs in a cod-fish of the middle size; allowing for a large consumption by other fishes which devour them, still enough are left, that when hatched produce a superabundant supply. They are deposited in the inequalities of the bottom amongst the stones.

The *Haddock* † is another species belonging to this genus, which frequents our coast in great numbers in mid-winter; they are stated sometimes to form a bank twenty-four miles long by three broad. They pursue and devour the herrings, and are themselves in their turn devoured by sharks, which follow their shoals.

The next tribe of migratory fishes is one which supplies our tables with a very acceptable successor, when the cod-fish is out of season, and which at last usually becomes so plentiful and cheap as to form a part of the poor man's bill of fare, as well as of that of his rich neighbour. Every one

\* *Gadus Morhua*.

† *Gadus Œgelfinus*.