

£50, tenable for three years at Brasenose College, Oxford. The electors to these are the dean and chapter, on the nomination of the examiner. A Philpott Exhibition may be held concurrently with a Somerset Scholarship.

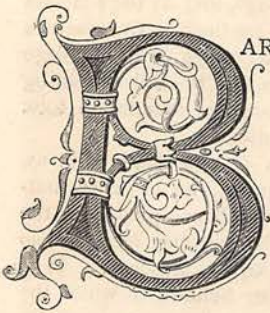
Finally there are four Langfordian Scholarships, open to boys under twelve and natives of Hereford, entitling the holders to a free education, books, and money allowance. These are awarded by open competition. The little seed sown by Bishop Gilbert slumbered for many generations, but it has borne goodly fruit at last. His tomb is not to be found in the city he blessed, for in 1389 he was translated to the See of St. David's, in which diocese he died in

1397, and was buried in the Whitefriars Church, Haverfordwest. In his early days he was a politician, in his later ones we will hope that the kingdom he served was not of this world. He must have lived somewhat before his time, or he would not have recognised the value of, nor striven to extend the facilities for education. He could not have foreseen the dimensions to which his foundation would grow, and it remains for us to reflect that the good as well as the evil that men do lives after them, and that their endeavours for light and culture ultimately expand and blossom far beyond what they ever imagined possible in those remote periods which we commonly stigmatise as the Dark Ages.

E. CLARKE.

## THE HERRING.

BY GREVILLE FENNELL.



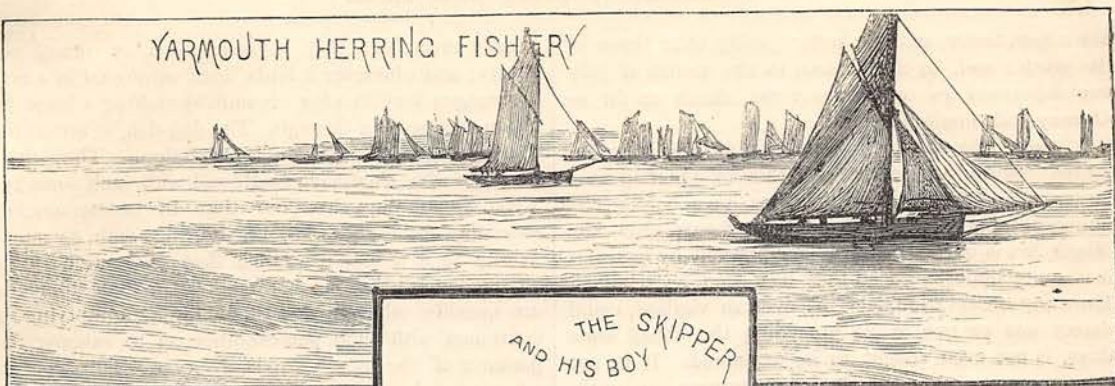
**B**ARON CUVIER, in that best of text-books upon ichthyology, revised and perfected by Professor Valenciennes, places the herring in the first rank as a source of national wealth. He tells us that by its fecundity it is one of those natural productions the use of which

may decide the fate of nations. The coffee-bean, the tea-leaf, the spices of the torrid zone, and the silkworm have less influence on the health and wealth of nations than the herring of the northern seas. Luxury and caprice may seek the former productions, but necessity requires the latter. This fishery sends every year, from the coasts of France, Holland, and Britain, numerous fleets to collect from the depths of the stormy ocean an abundant and certain harvest, which the vast shoals of herrings offer to the courageous activity of these nations. The greatest statesmen, the most intelligent political economists, have looked on the herring fishery as the most important of maritime expeditions. It has been named "the great fishery." It forms robust men, intrepid mariners, and experienced navigators. Nations industriously occupied in this fishery know how to make it the source of inexhaustible riches. This estimate of the value of the fishery from a national point of view is confirmed by the British, Dutch, and French making it for centuries the subject of special legislation, not only as a source of a nation's food, but as a nursery for seamen. This fishery was of comparatively little importance in the early part of the reign of George II., but at that period a Fishery Board was established consisting of intelligent and patriotic men of high standing, and from that time it has risen to become one of the greatest, if not the greatest and most prosperous in the world. Mr. John M. Mitchell, whose monograph upon the herring stands deservedly high as a literary and scientific production, says: "The whole system,

carefully and economically managed by the Board and its officials and local officers, combined with judicious legislation and arrangement, has insured that efficiency and success which entitles it to be characterised as much superior to any similar existing institution either at home or abroad."

But where do these vast shoals of herrings come from, and where—after supplying mankind in the greatest prodigality—do the rest go to? This and other problems remain yet to be solved by the intelligence of observers. An able writer asks, Is there any foundation for the old and at one time universally accepted theory that the herring reproduces its species in the icy regions of the North Sea, and afterwards travels southwards in vast and countless hosts? It is strange that for a long time this absurd proposition met with almost universal acceptance. There was not the slightest tittle of evidence in its favour. No one pretended to have as much as seen any large shoals of herrings in the open ocean proceeding from the North Sea southwards; nobody ever offered a suggestion as to the coast upon which the spawn was deposited; no one explained how it was that the shoals could make their way across a tempest-tossed ocean and brave the attacks of such destructive natural enemies as the whale and the porpoise, so as to make their appearance in enormous numbers off the Scottish coast. To suppose that the herring bred in the icy fastnesses of the North, and made his appearance in a mysterious manner in sufficient numbers and in such a condition as to constitute an important branch of national wealth, offered one of those attractive enigmas which the half-learned are always too glad to accept as accounting for those secrets of nature which require careful investigation. Even the "Encyclopædia Britannica" of 1857 reproduces this theory of Pennant's, that the herrings migrate from north to south in summer and autumn; and, without any qualification, states that "the shoals are generally preceded, sometimes for two days, by one or two males. The largest mostly go first and act as guides. It is generally believed that the herrings captured far north

YARMOUTH HERRING FISHERY



THE SKIPPER AND HIS BOY



WASHING FLOATERS



SMOKING

BLOATERS



A HAUL



J.E.C.

are larger, fatter, and of a better quality than those of the south; and, for this reason, in the month of July our fishermen go out to meet the shoals as far as Orkney and Shetland."

"It would be difficult," observes a modern practical writer, "perhaps to compress within an equal space a larger amount of fallacy than we have here. The notion of large shoals migrating southward from the North Sea is not only utterly unsupported by fact, but it is quite opposed to all that has been ascertained. How any observation, let it be ever so vigilant, could detect one or two males preceding the shoal some days, is not even sought to be explained. It is not true, moreover, that the Scotch fishermen go northward to Orkney and Shetland to meet the shoals. The fishermen of these places indeed fish for the herring when it appears; but so far from the fish caught there being larger, fatter, and of a better quality than those of the south, it is notoriously the case that the herrings of the Frith of Clyde (especially those caught in Loch Fyne), and those which are caught off the Isle of Man, are among the largest and fattest herrings which are caught off the shores of Great Britain." There are other misstatements in the "Encyclopædia." The writer says that "the greatest number are taken on the coasts of Norway and Sweden." This is absolutely erroneous; from 1808 up to 1864, it is certain there has been no herring fishery in the neighbourhood of Göttenburg; and, indeed, for many years past the herring has so forsaken the coasts of Sweden that the fishery is almost extinct, yet this authority tells us that the herring fishery of Sweden doubles in its proceeds that of the Scottish coasts.

The herring has many enemies to contend with. The Greenland whale has been acquitted, thanks to his small throat, of the charge of clupeicide under which he has long lain; but *Balæna musculus*, the rorqual of Lacépède, is a most destructive fellow. Off the Norwegian coasts a school of these whales and large flocks of aquatic birds not unfrequently accompany the shoals of herrings, greatly diminishing their numbers, but offering some compensation by indicating the presence of the fish to the fishermen. The beaked whale, *Balæna rostrata*, is a merciless tyrant; then come the seal and the cod-fish—all take toll from the smaller fry. Nor is the salmon exempt from this charge, Mr. Mitchell assuring us that Master *Salmo salar*, in the Moray Frith, has been caught with full-sized herrings in his stomach. The whiting likewise destroy large quantities of young herrings and of spawn, and so does the dog-fish, which latter "brute" perhaps, in the aggregate, is the greatest gourmand of all. The dog-fish—*Acanthias vulgaris*—picked dog-fish—bone dog (Sussex Hoe, Orkney) is the most common of the shark family, and found in every part of the British and Irish seas. As many as 20,000 are said to have been taken at one time in a pilchard sean off Cornwall. It measures from three to four feet; its upper part is slate-grey, its under yellowish white. In the Orkneys and Shetlands they are salted and dried for winter food. The dog-fish, like its congener the shark, turns on its side when it seizes its prey, and

greatly resembles that ravenous fish in many respects; and whenever it finds itself entangled in a net, disengages itself in a few seconds by making a large incision and passing through. The dog-fish, in attacking the herring, devour them to repletion. They then disgorge what they have swallowed with such voracity, after which they lose no time in recommencing—seizing and swallowing the herrings with as much avidity as if it had been their first repast after a long abstinence, till they are again full, when their stomachs are speedily relieved, and this filling and emptying is continued with such perseverance as to exhaust the patience of the most curious observer. This process, when carried on by numbers of the dog-fish about the nets, occasions a white shining appearance on the surface of the sea, accompanied with a smoothness as if a quantity of oil had been strewed on it, emitting a rank oleaginous smell, which may be detected at some distance. These insatiable creatures are assisted in their ravages by the sepia or cuttle-fish, which, with their hard mouths resembling parrots' bills, cut up the mackerel and herrings with great adroitness. If we add to these herring-feeders the enormous consumption of herrings by sea-birds, and then remember what a wealth of food is still supplied by the shoals to man himself, we shall get a glimpse, however faint, of the bounty of Providence in thus making the ocean a teeming treasury of food.

"Let us suppose," writes Mr. James Wilson, "that there are 200,000 Solan geese feeding for seven months at St. Kilda—a moderate computation for that colony; say each devours (by itself or young) only five herrings a day, this amounts to 1,000,000; seven months (March to September) contain 214 days, by which if we multiply the above, the product is 214,000,000 of fish for the summer sustenance of a single species near this island."

The fishermen on the east coast do not consider the sprat as the young fry of the herring, but many are of opinion that whitebait are so. The difference between the herring and the sprat they point out. The young herring has a smooth belly, the sprat a rough serrated one. If a young herring be held up by the middle fin he will hang head down; if a sprat, tail down.

"As dead as a herring," is a well-known phrase, but upon searching ancient works we find we have but half the quotation, which should run thus:—

"As dead as a herring—dead,  
That is, when it's red."

The general notion is that herrings die the moment they are drawn out of the water. This error has arisen from the mode in which the fish is captured, the net not enclosing them, but forming a wall in the sea, against which the masses of herrings drive their heads, and, caught by their gills in the meshes, are literally strangled, and hang in the water *sus. per coll.* Great numbers are in consequence brought out of the water dead; others are stifled on deck and in the hold by the superincumbent mass of captured fish. The herrings are drowned in the meshes, their convulsive struggles working the lint into their gills, and the

water rushing in, depriving them of air. If the herring slips its head through the mesh beyond the gills, it will remain alive many hours in the net; and, as sometimes happens, when the herring strikes the lower end of the net whilst the upper is being hauled in, the bulk of the catch is brought on board alive, flapping energetically on deck and in the hold. The writer of this has seen herrings that have lived full half an hour after being caught. M. Neurantz watched a herring live for more than an hour after it had been placed, without extra care, upon a conveyance with other fish; and Lagard, a Canadian missionary, noticed herrings

leap upon the deck when taken from the nets, and continue to do so for a considerable time. Noël de la Moninière, Inspector of the Fish Markets at Rouen, writes that he has seen herrings live two or three hours out of the water, and has held them in his hands when they have lived for half an hour. He relates also a variety of experiments he made to demonstrate their tenacity of life. But if herrings are tenacious of life, so are proverbs, and in these days, when every morsel of folk-lore is hunted up and cherished, it may be considered treasonable—although in the cause of truth—to rob the vocabulary of one so trite and popular.

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### OUR IRREPRESSIBLE TENOR.



HE question, "Are you a tenor?" is one that the majority of men have put to them several times in the course of their lives, and I suppose not less than nine out of ten are obliged to disappoint the eager lady-questioner by confessing to an inability either to sing at all, or else to sing anything but bass or baritone. But happy the man who chances to be the possessor of a voice that, by hook or by crook, can be screwed up to A, for his fortune is made. Society for the nonce lays aside her exclusiveness, and throws open her gates to receive him. Of course he will ascribe the eagerness with which his acquaintance is cultivated to the special charms of his personality, but, though it would be absurd to deny that these may, and often do, increase the interest in him, I have no hesitation in saying that in many sets his voice is quite sufficient to cause him to be run after, without the superaddition of any further valuable or attractive qualities. These sets are the musical ones, especially those in which a singing class has been started, for it is the common fate of amateur choirs to languish for want of tenors. Sopranos are to be had in abundance, contraltos are not uncommon, basses usually at hand in sufficient number, but the scarcity of tenors is appalling. In a private choral class of, say, fifty members, the ordinary allowance is not more than five, of whom two are slippery customers, and hardly ever attend the meetings, while the other three take it in turns to put in an appearance. In obedience to the invariable law which raises the value of an article when the supply falls short of the demand, tenors find themselves more sought after and more highly prized than their fellow-men—a valuation they are not slow to acquiesce in, and which results in the development of their common characteristic, an unlimited conceit. They do not grasp the fact—perhaps they would hardly be human if they did—that they are courted and petted solely on account of the formation of their throats, and that this is an accident of nature too completely independent of their own choice or control to be in any way meritorious on their part.

I used to wonder what would be the effect upon a certain Mr. Biggs of our acquaintance if he were to hear a few of the remarks made upon him behind his back. He was the one and only tenor we possessed in a class of twenty members started by an energetic lady in our quiet little country town of Shallerton, and his price (as far as the singing was concerned) was obviously above rubies. This view of the matter entirely coincided with his own, and he assumed the airs of an ineffably superior being—an archangel among the heathen. There was not a member of the class who did not show him an almost obsequious deference to his face and avow detestation of him behind his back—a long-continued hypocrisy to which we reconciled our consciences by arguing its necessity. He was indispensable to the class, and there was nothing for it but to pocket our dislike, and make a Phoenix of him, especially as the most trifling neglect, or omission of the small attentions he considered his due, was sure to produce a remark to the effect that he was thinking of leaving the class. Any statement of this kind infallibly brought us all, figuratively speaking, to his feet, and a chorus of entreaties that he would not desert us was poured into his well-pleased ear, and prevailed on him to continue his past favours. So dearly did he love the flattery bestowed on him on these occasions, that he not unfrequently fished for it by announcing his intention of giving up the class, obviously for no reason beyond a desire to be coaxed into recalling his decision. He was a tall, limp-looking individual of about forty, with narrow, sloping shoulders, and somewhat of a stoop. The effect of an unusually receding forehead was heightened by his habit of carrying his chin forward, while any expression that might have redeemed his face from dull inanity was rendered impossible by the fixed distortion of his nose and brow, necessitated by the exigencies of his eye-glass; for he was one of those men who are not deterred from wearing this fascinating decoration by any adverse conformation of face. Imagine the unconcealed disgust of the basses at seeing this personage surrounded by ladies all lavishing adulation upon him. The wrath and contempt with which they twirled their moustaches as they watched the