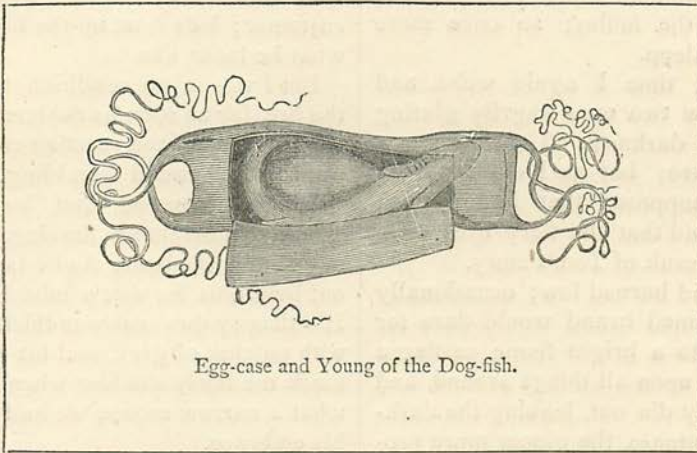


SHARKS AND THEIR PILOTS.



VARIOUS specimens of the shark tribe are constant tenants of our seas, and other species are either accidental or regular visitors to our coasts. Some species of this ferocious group produce their young alive; others produce eggs, if they may be so called, or rather horny cases, of an oblong figure and compressed, in which the young fish is inclosed. These cases, when empty, are thrown very commonly on our shores;

canicula) and the large spotted dog-fish (*Scyllium catulus*) are common on our coast, especially its more southern portions. They usually swim low in the water, and hunt for prey in troops, feeding on fishes and crustacea. Their voracity and their numbers render them very troublesome to the fishermen, for though they are only about two feet in length, they drive shoals of larger and more valuable species from their haunts; and are, besides, often caught on lines intended for a different capture. We have never known the dog-fish sold in



Egg-case and Young of the Dog-fish.

from each angle long curling appendages or filaments project, at least in the eggs of most, as, for example, the small spotted sea-dog (*Scyllium canicula*). They are known as sea-purses, mermaids' purses, etc. By means of these filaments, or tendrils, they become attached to seaweeds; and a small linear fissure, near each end, allows the admission of water to the inclosed fish, which ultimately escapes by an aperture on one end, which is closed till the fish opens it.

The small spotted dog-fish (*Scyllium*

England as food, but have seen it in the market of Dieppe.

That dread of the mariner in the tropical seas, the huge and ferocious white shark (*Carcharias vulgaris*), is occasionally seen as a wanderer near our coasts, and more frequently in the Mediterranean, especially in the spring and autumn. The horrible loss of life which this shark has so often occasioned to bathers, or to men that have accidentally fallen overboard, its pertinacity in following the ship, its voracity, and its tremendous struggles

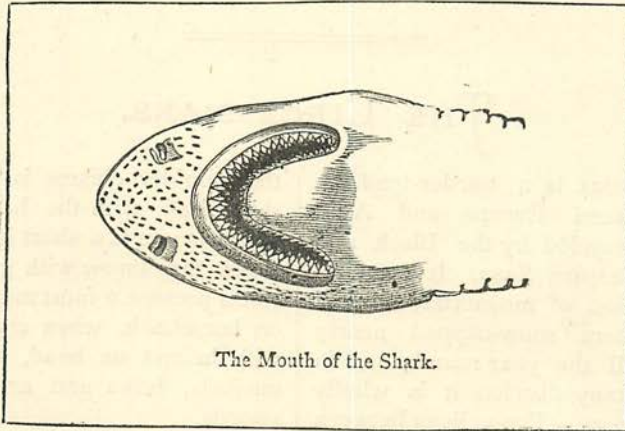
when hauled on deck, have been often described, and are the theme of many a sailor. Happily it is not a frequent visitor to our coast, nor a long-continued resident when it appears.

A natural historian of great repute gives an interesting anecdote, which is possibly not as well known as it deserves to be:—

“In 1758, in stormy weather, a sailor fell overboard from a frigate in the Mediterranean. A shark was close by, which, as he was swimming and crying for help, took him in his wide throat, so that he forthwith disappeared. Other sailors had leapt into the sloop, to help their comrade while yet swimming. The

thousand nine hundred and twenty-four pounds.”

Another species, the blue shark (*Carcharias glaucus*), remarkable for the slenderness of its body, inhabits the Mediterranean, and periodically visits the Cornish coast, to the great injury of the fishermen. Mr. Couch says: “The blue shark is migratory, and I have never known it arrive on the coast of Cornwall before the middle of June; but afterwards it becomes so abundant, that I have known eleven in one boat, and nine in another, in one day. The injury they inflict on the fisherman is great, as they hover about the boats, watch the lines, which they sometimes cut asunder,



The Mouth of the Shark.

captain had a gun which stood on the deck discharged at the fish, which struck it so that it cast out the sailor which it had in its throat, who was taken up, alive and little injured, by the sloop, which had now come up. The fish was harpooned, taken up on the frigate, and dried. The captain made a present of the fish to the sailor who, by God's providence, had been so wonderfully preserved. The sailor went round Europe exhibiting it. He came to Franconia, and it was publicly exhibited in Erlangen, as also at Nurnberg and other places. The dried fish was delineated. It was twenty feet long, and, with expanded fins, nine feet wide, and weighed three

without any obvious motive, and pursue the fish that are drawn up. This, indeed, often leads to their own destruction; but when their teeth do not deliver them from their difficulty they have a singular method of proceeding, which is, by rolling the body round, so as to twist the line about them throughout its whole length, and sometimes this is done in such a complicated manner, that I have known a fisherman give up any attempt to unroll it as a hopeless task. To the pilchard drift-net the shark is a still more dangerous enemy, and it is common for it to pass in succession along the whole length of the net, cutting out, as with shears, the fish and the net that holds them.”

Other true sharks, as the porbeagle (*Lamna cornubia*), and the Greenland shark (*Scymnus borealis*), so well known to the Greenland fishers as the deadly foe of the whale, are sometimes also to be seen. The latter species is extremely tenacious of life, and its ferocity is dreadful; it attacks the whale, rending out with every snap large masses of the whale's flesh, while the latter lashes the water with agony in vain efforts to drive away his foe.

We may here observe a singular circumstance, connected with the sharks of the temperate and warmer latitudes, as the white shark and the blue shark, that they are often seen attended by two or

more small fishes, called pilot-fishes (*Naucrates ductor*), between which and themselves a singular friendship subsists; they have been known to interpose between their friend and the baited hook, and running against his muzzle, turn him from it. On the other hand, perhaps, where they see no danger, they will direct him to the bait, and even cling to him as he is hoisted up on deck. This singular fish will also attend upon vessels during their course, and that for months together, a circumstance known to the ancients, who regarded it as a pilot to the doubtful navigator, and held it sacred. The pilot-fish is transversely banded, and belongs to the mackerel family.

THE CIRCASSIANS.



CIRCASSIA is a border-land between Europe and Asia, bounded by the Black and Caspian Seas. It is a region of mountains, many of them snow-capped nearly all the year round; and in many districts it is wholly destitute of trees. The valleys between the mountains are fruitful. There are no cities or towns; the people dwell in villages or encampments, which are often broken up and moved from place to place. A village consists of a number of huts, formed of canvas and plaited osiers, covered with straw at the top.

The Circassians are of Tartar origin, and retain the wandering, warlike, robber-like character of their forefathers. Indeed, the original meaning of their name is "brigands," or "highwaymen," but they proudly call themselves Adighé, or "the noble."

They are divided and subdivided into tribes, clans, and families. They have fine features, and in their habits are lively, active, and bold. The dress of

the humbler classes is simply a goat-skin cloak, with the hair outside; and their weapon is a short iron-pointed staff, which they throw with great skill. The chiefs present a most martial appearance on horseback, when coated with mail, with helmet on head, and armed with muskets, bows and arrows, and short swords.

The women have bright, delicate complexions, and sweet expression of countenance. They are regarded as among the most beautiful specimens of the human race; but their very beauty leads to their being sold into slavery to the Turks. Even parents sell their young daughters. The female dress is a cap drawn up at top into a sort of crown, under which their hair is turned into a bunch. In person and in domestic habits they are very cleanly.

The Circassians are bad husbandmen; they grow chiefly millet, of which they make their bread. Their principal care is the rearing of horses, in which they take much pride.

They have several customs which re-