VIII.—MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATIONS ON THE SUBJECT OF THE SEA-FISHERIES.

NANTUCKET ISLE, GRAND MANAN,
November 21, 1870.

SIR: I received your letter, and I notice what you say about the fish, &c. In regard to the herring, so long as the mother herring is left to lay her eggs, there will be a good supply of young herring. Thus, sir, it is good for Government to stop netting. Last fall, and this fall also, was the best fishing ever known at Grand Manan. I think the wiers, if tended properly, will not destroy the herring; but if the female herring are taken, then all are gone. Codfish are led by herring, as they are choice food for cod. Last summer cod were scarce in the bay, plenty on the banks. In the summer, in drought, and when the water is warm, the herring stay in the deep waters; when fall rains come, and the water and weather cool, the herring come into shoal water, and the codfish follow them. Last winter was the best cod and herring fishing ever known at Grand Manan, and was good this fall when the weather was suitable for fishing; but there have been more gales this fall than I ever knew, so that there was great difficulty in fishing. Government has done nothing about the weir fishing, but forbids netting for three months (July 15 to October 15) at the south head of Grand Manan. The abundance of cod is affected in this way. If the herring are destroyed in one place the cod go to another in search for them. For this reason the seed-herring should be left. There was a report during the last summer that cod were plenty, and every vessel that went on the bank from Grand Manan and Eastport was loaded with fish. The cod prefer living or fresh-killed herring for food. Last Thursday I caught a cod five and one-half feet long that chose to bite at a herring-bait when full of sea-crabs, thirteen in number, and other small things. Cod live on crabs, scallops, and the jellies on the bottom, and a small fish in the form of a shrimp, but four or five times as large. Large cod eat small flounders, small pollock and hake, small salmon, sea-perch, cunners, and a great many things found at the bottom of the water, but always prefer the herring. Some come in schools and eat the herring-spawn. Cod lay their eggs in November and December, as near as we can tell, and we catch them sometimes when their spawn is so ripe as to run from the fish when dying. Some cod caught in the winter have small spawns in them. Some think they spawn in March or April. The small cod, which never grows to a large size, spawn in the fall months, the same as the large cod. The herring at south head of Grand Manan spawn in August, September, and October. Over at Campbell's they catch large herring in winter with spawn in them, which would be hatched in spring. Down at the East Bay they are found in the same condition. I never heard of a blue-fish being caught at Grand Manan. I think the set-lines an injury to

the halibut, the females being caught in them, which cannot be caught by hand-lines. People complain of the injury to halibut and cod from the set-lines.

Yours, truly,

SIMEON F. CHENEY.

NASHUA, NEW HAMPSHIRE,
February 24, 1871.

DEAR SIR: Allow me your attention for a few moments. I was a fisherman for several years on the cod-fishing line. You are well aware that different kinds of cod use different food. There is the poogie cod, the herring-cod, and the clam-cod. The best, and what has always been relied on, is the poogie-cod, which is fast going out of existence, and the fisheries will eventually be ruined if there is nothing done to prevent it by the Government. They have tried to legislate it in Maine, but, you know, "money makes the mare go," and these oil mill owners have more than fishermen; therefore the effort will fail unless the friends of fishermen take hold of it. It is unnecessary for me to explain how many thousand barrels of this food of the poogie-fish is consumed in a year to make oil of; it is sufficient to know that it is destroying all the food, and with very little recompense. The Government ought to pass an act prohibiting the seining of poogies on the coast, especially on Government waters, to make oil or manure of.

I have the honor to be, your obedient servant,

WINSLOW P. EAYRS.

The fish here referred to as the Pogie is the Menhaden, or Moss Bunker, (*Brevoortia menhaden.*)

NASHUA, *December* 28, 1871.

DEAR SIR: Every other year, when the pohagen or poogies (menhaden) come into the mouths of the rivers, we find thousands of them thrown on shore, dead. There is a great deal of speculation in regard to them, and as to the cause of their death. I think, however, I can solve the mystery. I notice that all the print-works, dye-houses, and factories discharge into the water tons of dyes, poison culch, in fact, everything which ought to be buried, such as copperas and other chemicals. You know what they are, and that they fill the water with poison. Even the card-factory here in this city throws tons every year into the Merrimac. Fish being so easily destroyed, I believe that is the reason, and that the practice ought to be stopped. I believe that is the reason that salmon, shad, &c., do not come up the river as they used to. Is not my idea reasonable? Not only the fish are affected in this way, but the city of Lowell are drinking the water. We may soon know that the people are dying, while the cause is not understood.

The idea that dye-stuffs settle, and the water runs clear, is all bosh, in my estimation. Am I not right? I think this too important to fish and people not to be looked into. But I know of no one who has even

mentioned it, or, as far as I know, even thought of it. Does that not come under the fish question?

Very truly,

WINSLOW P. EAYRS.

UTICA, *February* 21, 1871.

DEAR SIR: When I was a lad I lived twenty miles from Bellows Falls, and shad were brought to my home and sold for 10 cents each. They could not surmount the falls; but salmon went north, to Canada, and were worth 3 cents per pound. In my grandfather's time salmon were taken in plenty three miles from our place, at the head of the Contokook River. There is not a doubt but the obstructions of the Connecticut River can be removed; but the smaller streams carry less water by the clearing of the land, and, I fear, cannot be *re-populated*. But the noble brook-trout can be produced at a very cheap rate where butchers are plenty.

Yours, truly,

E. JEWETT.

COPY OF MEMORIAL OF CITIZENS OF HYANNIS ADDRESSED TO CONGRESS, PRAYING THAT LAWS BE PASSED PROHIBITING THE USE OF FIXED APPARATUS FOR CAPTURING FISH.

We, the undersigned citizens of Cape Cod, humbly entreat your honorable body to become interested in making laws to regulate the fishing business, so as to secure to the fishermen a compensation for the toil and danger accompanying the business. Pounds, weirs, and traps have about used it up. Many of the fishermen have been driven into fishing for a living. It is not uncommon to find two or three men on board a small fishing-vessel. Ten years ago they were in command of as good ships as floated. Steam has robbed us of our first occupation. Pounds, weirs, and traps have served us as bad as steam. We contend that the rich man's dollar, while he is asleep, should not be allowed to catch all the fish, while our lines, which are well baited and tended, find no fish to bite at them. We contend we can put as many and better fish into the markets where fish are sold than are sold in those markets. If any of you doubt it, let him visit the places where fish are induced to go and deposit their eggs. You will find fish taken in such quantities that, after taking care of all they can, the balance are thrown into the farmers' wagons that stand waiting to take them away to dress the land; catching as many fish at one time as it would take to supply all the markets for months; destroying hundreds of what would become fish where one fish is taken.

Shall the rich man's dollar be allowed to drive us from our home and all that is sacred to us in memory? Must we look on, and see the rich man's dollar rob our children of bread and clothing? It will be hard work. We have contended with old ocean from our youth, but the rich man's dollar we cannot manage in a lawful way. Why should we not

have good laws that would encourage rather than discourage the poor man while toiling to earn bread for his family? God grant that your wisdom may be guided in the right direction.

Very respectfully,

HATSEL HANDY,
Hyannis, Massachusetts.

JOSEPH G. LORING.	JAMES ELLIS.
DANIEL HUMES.	CHARLES DENISON.
DUSTIN TAYLOR.	HENRY E. BAXTER.
OSBURN HALLETT.	NELSON BAXTER.
LEVI L. BUCK.	JERVIS W. EDDY.
WM. C. WHELDEN.	PRENTISS LINNELL, JR.
GEO. H. SMITH.	JOSHUA HOPKINS.
ARUNAH WHELDEN, 2d.	REUBEN BAKER.
BENAGER WHELDEN.	TIMOTHY CROCKER.
ALEXANDER CROWELL.	HIRAM HAMBLIN.
ELEAZER BAKER.	TIMOTHY HAMBLIN.
BENJAMIN BAXTER.	SIMEON HAMBLIN.
ELLERY E. BARTER.	WILLIAM HAMBLIN.
EBENEZER CROWELL.	WALTON HOLMES.

HYANNIS, *Massachusetts*, 1871.