THE SWORD FISH.

ANTICATION TO A ... The increasing tendency of our people to spend the vacation weeks of summer on the sea coast, and the greater facilities for transportation, have caused a great change in the average knowledge in regard to our coast fish, in the last ten years, and it is only for the benefit of some unfortunate but blameless stay-at-home of the Republican household of readers, that this paper is writ-

The valetudinarian, searching for his fugitive health among the dense fogs that cover the bay in the month of August, creeps out from his musty quarters on board the mackerel schoouer in which his line are cast for the present, and finds that she is creeping down the south channel with a big fogeater ahead of her, so that fair weather may be expected by noon or thereabouts. Upon the martingale under the bowsprit he sees a harpoon fastened, the other end of the line attached to it being belayed inboard, and he waits for the warm sunshine which brings the sword-fish to the surface, with a feeling of impatient expectation. At last the sun casts a watery shower on the deck, then the narrow horizon enlarges, and soon they are sailing over sunny seas, with fog-banks hanging low upon the distant horizon. Soon the report comes aft that a sword fish is seen nearly shead, and it is some time before the unpracticed eye of the landsman can distinguish, in the waste of waters, the triangular back-fin hardly larger than a man's hand, which, projecting into the air, betrays the presence of the victim. Now let the spectator ascend twenty feet in the rigging, and he will easily see the mo-tion and shape of the fish. With a courage that is his chiefest danger, he turns broadside to his approaching enemy, and having surveyed it, he goes slong leisurely upon his course, until the man standing upon his martingale stays, is directly over him. Deep the fatal iron is buried in his sinewy back, and in a second, the form of the monster is swinging up in the air. Now is the critical moment, for the muscular energy exerted is tremendous, and more than half of the fish thus struck are lost by the tearing out of the iron. In many instances, too, the onward course of the ship drags the struck fish under L. & C. SPECK & her bows, so that the harpoon draws before he is out of the water. A much more legitimate and success-

ful method of capture is with hook and line and lance. For this purpose a full sized halibut hook is taken, and a reliable cod-line attached. Then a fresh mackerel, split along the back, is used for burying the hook, so that only its point projects at the mouth. Rowing out five or six miles ahead of the fish, the bait is thrown into the water directly in the course he is going, and the line sinks slowly down. The fish starts shead at a quickened rate, and the fin DRESS AND CLOAK TRIMMINGS. disappears.— Soon a sharp tug at the line tells the crew the sword has transfixed the bait, for the sword fish has no teeth, and his prey must be helpless, before it can be swallowed. In a minute comes another blow, and perhaps a third, when the bait is taken into the cartilaginous mouth of the bitter, and usually at the same instant himself is bit. Now comes a lively time. An attempt to prevent his taking more line would insure the parting of the line or the capsizing of the boat, and so he is allowed to run, with the line held taut, The worst cases are those that go down perpendicularly toward the bottom, and refuse to run, for they drown very slow-ly. At last, sometimes in ten minutes, sometimes in three hours, the exhausted fish is slowly drawn toward the boat, and dispatched with the lance.

Safely on deck we can view him at our leisure. From four to ten feet in length, from seventy to four hundred pounds, with a skin of browinsh black, which in the sea looks a warm madder brown; there is nothing remarkable sbout this fish (if we do not consider his very large eye with its bone sclerotic), except the formidable weapon from which he is named. This is not serrated, nor armed with lateral teeth, nor twisted like molasses candy, nor does it bear the faintest resemblance to any picture with which we are familiar. Imagine a surgeon's thumb-lancet twice as long as it is, with the same width, and you have a fair idea of its shape, and you have a fair idea of its shape, and also of its temper, for we have seen one over three feet long, thrown to the depth of an inch into solid timber, where it stuck and supported its weight without breaking. This sword, which assumes a rounded form, as it joins the nose, is kept, in position by its own substance overlying the head of the fish, as the bony tendons of a turkey do the drumstick, so that the whole is continuous. It is rere that these weapons do It is rare that these weapons do not show upon their sides or tips some evidence of injury from contact or col-lision. The flesh of the sword-fish is lision. The flesh of the sword-fish is very dry and unsavory, and though it does not compare unfavorably with that of the deep-water fish, such as dolphin and bonetas, in its fresh state, we can hardly imagine any one hankering after it, when it has undergone the process of salting. Still it is carefully preserved in pickle by those who catch the fish, and has its place in the price current.—

It is stated that a bungry man who its down before a pound of beefsteak. tender, juicy and an inch thick, and eats it, will find upon analysis that six-ty-five per cent of his steak was water; that eighteen per cent. will go to give him an aldermanic fleshiness, and that fourteen per cent. is assigned to warm him and make him feel comfortable on a cold day, Of the flesh-forming ingredients, according to Dr. Playfair, every one on an average requires ninety-t vo pounds annually to keep up a proper bodily condition. If it is not obtained from steaks, then it must be secured from something else. Cheese is a great from something else. Cheese is a great flesh former, (thirty per cent.) and taken with beer speedily conceals all traces of unsightly bones. Two ounces of flesh-formers per diem will keep a man alive if he is not forced to labor, but hard labor requires six, or the body will run short of starch and sugar, and go behindhand in health and strength. In one hundred pounds of wheat there are ten pounds of flesh, but there is double the amount in the same quantity of oatmeal.

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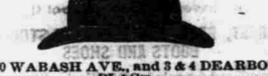
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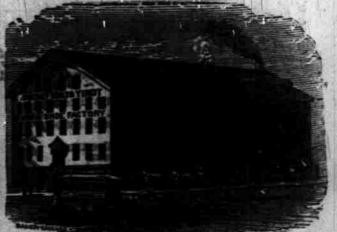
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