

and considered by the luxurious as a very great delicacy.

An anecdote recorded by the Roman writers, as it relates to the fish whose history we have just given, may be not improperly repeated here. A senator of rank had attained to very great celebrity for his taste in good eating, and the luxury of his table: his fish in particular were distinguished for flavour and feeding: Augustus became his guest, and found that fame had done justice to his merits—his lampreys were indeed of excellent taste. The Emperor was desirous to know by what means he gave them so fine a relish: the epicure was happy to instruct the Emperor, and told him, “that it was his custom to throw into his pond such of his slaves as had at any time displeased him.” Augustus did not admire the recipe—for he instantly ordered all the man’s ponds to be filled up; and perhaps many of our readers would not be sorry could we have informed them that the owner had been thrown in with the rest of the rubbish.