

body ; the rest is of a gold colour ; but it is so bright and splendid, that the finest gilding according to Father Le Compte, cannot approach it. The female is white ; but its tail and half of its body, resemble the lustre of silver.

Du Halde, however, observes, that a red and white colour are not always the distinguishing marks of the male and female ; but that the females are known by several white spots which are seen round the orifices, which serve them as organs of hearing ; and the males, by having these spots much brighter.

Gold Fish are light and lively ; they love to sport on the surface of the water, soon become familiarised, and may even be accustomed to come and receive their food on sounding a small rattle. Great care is necessary to preserve them ; for they are extremely delicate, and sensible to the least injuries of the air :—a loud noise, such as that of thunder, or a cannon ; a strong smell ; a violent shaking of the vessel, or a single touch, will often destroy them.

These fish live with little nourishment ; those small worms that are engendered in the water, or the earthy particles that are mixed with it, are sufficient for their food. The