

contact with the rocks. Many of the salmon in consequence die: these the Indians are in the habit of drying for food, by hanging them on the limbs of trees. This is to preserve them from the wolves, and to be used in time of need, when they are devoured, though rotten and full of maggots. The fish of the upper waters are said to be hardly edible, and, compared with those caught at the mouth of the Columbia, are totally different in flavour. The latter are the richest and most delicious fish I ever recollect to have tasted: if any thing, they were too fat to eat, and one can perceive a difference even in those taken at the Willamette Falls, which, however, are the best kind for salting. There are four different kinds of salmon, which frequent this river in different months: the latest appears in October, and is the only kind that frequents the Cowlitz river. The finest sort is a dark silvery fish, of large size, three or four feet long, and weighing forty or fifty pounds.

There is one point which seems to be still in doubt, namely, where the spawn of this fish is deposited. It is asserted, and generally believed, that none of the old fish ever return to the sea again. It has not been ascertained whether the young fry go to the ocean; and, if they do so, whether as spawn or young fish. Some light will be thrown on this subject in the Ichthyological Report.

Mr. Drayton, during the time he remained at the falls, procured a beautiful specimen of a small-sized sucker, which the Indians caught in their nets, and of which he made a drawing. The lamprey eels were also a source of curiosity: they seemed to increase in numbers, crawling up by suction an inch at a time. At these eels the boy who accompanied Mr. Drayton took pleasure in throwing stones, which excited the wrath of the Indians, as they said they should catch no more fish if he continued his sport. They have many superstitions connected with the salmon, and numerous practices growing out of these are religiously observed: thus, if any one dies in their lodges during the fishing season, they stop fishing for several days; if a horse crosses the ford, they are sure no more fish will be taken.

During the fishing season there are about seventy Indians, of both sexes, who tarry at the falls, although the actual residents are not, according to Mr. Waller, beyond fifteen. They dwell in lodges, which resemble those described heretofore, and are built of planks split from the pine trees. These are set up on end, forming one apartment, of from thirty to forty feet long, by about twenty wide. The roof has invariably a double pitch, and is made of cedar bark: the doorway is small, and either round or rounded at the top. I have mentioned that the outside is well stocked with fleas: it need scarcely be said what the condition of the inside is.

These Indians are to be seen lounging about or asleep in the day-