

CORNWALL .

VARIOUS conjectures have been formed relating to the name of this county, some deriving it from the British word *Corn*, signifying a horn, alluding to the two promontories, called the *Land's-End*, and the *Lizard-Point*, and the Saxon word *Wealh, strange, or Gaul*, a name by which they distinguished the inhabitants of this county, from their resemblance in language, manners, and customs, to the Gauls on the continent, changing the G, according to the German custom, into a W. Others derive the name from *Carn*, the British word for a rock. Some, indeed, are fond of deriving it from *Corineus*, a companion of *Brute*, which is a mere conjecture.

Cornwall is situated at the western extremity of the island, and is bounded on the south, the west, and the north, by the sea; and on the east by the river Tamar, which divides it from Devonshire. Its length from east to west is about 80 miles; its greatest width from S. S. E. to N. N. E. is near 45, though in many places it is not above 20 miles wide, the peninsula of which the county consists, growing narrower by degrees from Devonshire to the Land's End. However, it is 150 miles in circumference.

The land is mountainous in the middle, and these mountains form a kind of broken chain,
throughout

throughout the whole length of the county On each side this high ridge, the land has a plainer surface, but is rather more hilly on the north than on the south. This ridge intercepts the rain, and fogs and dews fall down from it in plentiful streams towards the sea-coast, so that, upon the whole, the earth is no where better watered than in this county.

Cornwall being a peninsula, almost surrounded by the sea, we cannot expect the air to be free from exhalations; therefore it is no wonder they seldom have a dry summer in this county. The rains, however, are rather frequent than heavy; nor is it ever so cloudy but the sun will break out one part or other of the day, which may be owing to the hilly narrow ridge-like form of the county, over which the winds have a quick and short passage, and do not suffer the clouds to hang long in one place. Besides, for three or four months in the year, the wind blowing between the west and south, must of course bring much wet from the ocean. The storms in Cornwall are also more violent than in other places remote from the sea, all the high lands being quite exposed. Hence it appears that the air of this county must needs be replete with the salts of the sea, for which reason it eats into iron in a very short time, and the bars and frames of windows are always corroded by the saltspray, let them be ever so well painted. This saltness of the air is bad for persons afflicted with the scurvy, and is also very hurtful to shrubs and trees near the sea shore, especially towards the west, insomuch that it will not permit a tree to rise much above whatever flickers it from the sea-winds. The sea-air is pernicious to plants, in proportion to their tenderness or strength, and the force with which it is driven upon them. This is very evident, the young shoots of plants being shriveled

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up, in proportion as they are more or less exposed. Hence we may conclude, that without great industry in raising artificial shelters, no tall trees can be expected in Cornwall.

The winters here are much more mild than in any other part of England, insomuch that myrtles will always grow, without being put into green-houses. They never have any very great hail-storms, nor will the snow lie upon the ground above three or four days. However, when the winters are very severe in other parts of this island, Cornwall has its share; thus in 1739, it froze very hard on the 29th of December, and the next day it began to snow, which killed the orange-trees where the windows of the green-houses were left open. The spring is always very early, as appears from the buds and blossoms. However, the summers, though Cornwall lies so far to the south, are never very hot, on account of the sea-breezes blowing towards the land.

As there are many minerals in Cornwall, they must needs affect the air in some degree or other, These mineral vapours ascend so plentifully out of some of the lodes, or veins of metal and are so inflammable, that they often take fire, for which reason little flames of light are seen in the night-time, which is a sign that a good lode lies underneath. However, we must not confound these lights with *ignes fatui*, or *Jack with the Lanthorn*, which are of a different kind. There are often lightnings, which produce dreadful effects, and some have been so violent as to furrow the ground as if it had been done with a plough-share; they have also burst rocks, splitting them into shivers; but these effects have been most remarkable on a hill called Moelfra, in the parish of Madfern.

Notwithstanding

Notwithstanding what has been said, the air, in general, is very healthy, and always proper for respiration, because it is not loaded with the unwholesome exhalations of bogs, marshes, or stagnating pools; besides, the weather is seldom calm, and, when it is, it does not continue above a day's time. Much might be feared from the mineral exhalations, if the contrary did not appear from experience; for there are as many in instances of long life here, as in any other part of England.

The principal rivers of this county are the following.

The river Tamer rises in the parish of Morwinstow, which is more to the north than any other, and about three miles from the sea-coast. The spring first appears on the top of a moor, from whence the ground declining to the north, makes way for the water to run that way, and it forms the head of the river Turrige in Devonshire. The ground also shelves away on the other side to the south, and draining the bogs of the same moor on that side, forms the beginning of the Tamer, which, at the distance of ten miles, becomes so considerable as to give name to the village of Tamerton, where, continuing its course to the south, it enters the parish of St. Stephens, at the corner of which it receives the river Werrington. About half a mile farther, it receives the Atery, which runs under the walls of Lancelston, and becomes, soon after, at Polstun-bridge, a considerable wide and rapid stream. From whence running nearly south, it passes through Graistum bridge, and a mile below it receives the river Cowley; the Inny falls into it soon after. Five miles farther down, the Tamer receives the Inny on the east, and having made a creek into the parishes of Botsfleming and

Landulph

dulph on the west, becomes a spacious harbour. Then it washes the foot of the ancient borough of Saltash, and, within half a mile, is joined by the Lynher creek and river; passing afterwards strait forwards, it forms the noble harbour of the *Hamoze*, a Saxon term, signifying a wet oozy habitation. Here it makes too large creeks, one of which is called St. John's, and the other Millbrook. After this it enters the sea, having Mount Edgumbe for its western, and the lands of Stonehouse, and St. Nicholas island, for its eastern boundary.

The river Seaton rises in St Clare, four miles to the north-east of Leskard, and passing within a mile of that borough, to Lanseaton, runs through Minhenut parish falling into the sea at Seaton, after a course of about twelve miles.

The Loo, or East-Loo, rises in the highlands of St. Clare already mentioned, and parting under Leskard-Park, becomes navigable at San-Place, emptying itself about three miles farther, between the two towns of East Loo and West Loo. Here there is a Stone bridge of 15 arches, six feet three inches wide, and 41 yards long. Below this bridge is a creek that admits the tide, and with it small vessels. One mile below San-Place, the Loo is joined by the Duld, from the west, which rises in the parish of St. Pinock, and passing south, becomes navigable at Trelaun Wear, about two miles from the sea. A mile after it joins the East-Loo, it passes with it to the stone bridge.

The Fawey, or Fowey, rises in Fawey-Moor, at a place called Fawey-Well, not far from Brown Willy, one of the highest mountains in Cornwall. It passes under four bridges, takes in several rivulets, and comes at last to Resprin-bridge; three miles beyond which, it reaches

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the borough of Lestwithel, where it passes under a handsome stone bridge of nine arches, though there is occasion for no more than three. Formerly the sea ebbed and flowed above this town, though at present loaded barges seldom come within a mile of it. Three miles farther, the Faway receives the water of Lerwyn river and creek from the east, and then becomes a deep wide haven; in two miles farther it reaches the town of Fowey, which is seated on its western bank, and a little below joining the Polruan creek, it opens into the sea, between two old towers, built in the reign of Edward IV.

The next navigable stream is the river Fal, which rises at a place called Fentum Val, about two miles west of the hills of St. Rock, or Gram-pound. Hence it runs to Tregony. About a mile below, there is a creek three miles long, called Lamoran creek. After this it is joined by Truro creek, and the tide comes up to the borough of Truro, which renders the river navigable for vessels of 100 ton, that come up to the town key. When it approaches near the sea, it is called Falmouth Harbour, from Falmouth, which stands on the western bank. It runs into the sea, between Pendennis-castle on the western bank, and St. Maudit's and Anthony's point on the east. It is here somewhat more than half a mile wide, with a deep channel, but near the middle there is a large rock, which is hid when the water is deepest; for this reason there is a beacon laid down on the center of the rock.

The head of the river Hel is upon the hills of Wendron parish, whence it runs about three miles to a village called Guyk, whither, by the help of the tide, vessels come up. About a mile below, this river is joined by Maugan creek, on

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the south, and three miles farther by Kestel creek, where there is a ferry, and, at its mouth, three miles farther, it is joined by Gillam creek. These, with two or three more, form a harbour, which, within a mile of its mouth, is secure enough for ships of 200 tons; its passage into the sea is about a mile wide, and is called Helford passage.

The river Lo, or Low, rises in the highest part of Wendron parish, and in about five miles reaches the borough of Helstone, and five miles below, it forms a lake, called Lo Pool.

The river Heyl is formed by four brooks, which, uniting at Rebusbus, run a western course; then turn to the north, and in three miles turn to St. Erth, or St. Ercy Bridge, which has three stone arches, and a raised causeway, well walled on each side, extending across the valley. The lighters can now come no farther than within a bow-shot of the bridge, and that only with the tide of flood. Here the land of Cornwall is the narrowest, so that from the full sea-mark of Heyl in the north sea, to Market-Jew, and Mounts-Bay in the south sea, the distance is but three miles.

Ganal, or Ganal-Creek, runs up into the land from the north, or Severn sea, about two miles, where it meets with the river that rises in the parish of Newland, It was more considerable formerly, but has suffered greatly from the plenty of sea sand at the mouth of the Ganal. This creek will only admit vessels of 30 tons burthen.

The Alan is the greatest river on the north side of Cornwall, and at present is called the Camel, that is, the *Crooked River*. In Leland's time it was called Dunmere, that is, *The Water of the Hills*. This river rises about two miles north of the borough of Camelford, where its

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banks

banks are famous for two considerable battles, in one of which king Arthur received a mortal wound. The other was fought between the Cornish and the West-Saxons in Devonshire, in the year 824, in which many thousands fell on each side, and the victory remained doubtful. From hence the Alan, after it has run about 12 miles, becomes navigable for sand-barges at Parbrook, and at Egloshel it receives the river Laine. A mile farther down, this river comes to Wade-bridge, which is the largest in the county, for it has 17 handsome uniform arches, and reaches quite across the valley. The erection of this bridge was undertaken by the vicar of Egloshel, in the year 1460, whose name was Lovebon, as a work of general utility. This public-spirited clergyman, after great fortitude and perseverance in encountering a number of difficulties, as well from the situation as his circumstances, lived to see his bridge finished, partly by the assistance of others, to the great emolument of the county, and the immortal honour of his name. Vessels of about 60 tons come up to this bridge, and supply the country with coals from Wales, and with lime, timber, and grocery from Bristol. A mile farther down, the river makes two small creeks, and passes by the ancient town of Padstow, where there is a pier, and a trade from Ireland, Wales, and Bristol channel. It is here about a mile wide, and there is a ferry-boat to cross over it. Two miles below the town, the sea has thrown a bar of sand across the haven, which prevents ships of more than 200 tons from coming in at all; and it is somewhat dangerous for smaller ships, except the tides are high, and the weather fair. Borlase is of opinion that this river Alan might, with no great difficulty, be joined by a canal to the Fawey, which, as we

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have already observed, falls into the sea on the south coast, the distance between them in the middle of the county not being above four miles; the advantages which would result from uniting two such considerable rivers, cannot but be obvious, as the trade of the whole country would then undoubtedly be greatly increased; this scheme might the more easily be executed, as there are between the two rivers several lesser streams, which must greatly facilitate it.

We find no navigable river farther north, but there are two or three small creeks, one of which is called *Bude Haven*, it being formerly much more considerable than it is now. It is most probable the haven itself is turned into a morass, and meadow-ground, about two miles in length, and almost as much broad. A river runs through the middle of it, which with the tide makes the present creek.

In the rivers of this county, besides the fish of small consideration, there are shotes, which are a kind of small trouts; but in ponds they grow to the length of 12 or 14 inches, and are thought by some to be peculiar to this and the neighbouring county of Devon. The flesh is white, but not so firm as that of the common trout; it is to be found in all brooks not infected by the mundick waters of the mines; for these are fatal to all fish, sooner or later. There are no jacks, perches, carps, cray-fish, nor many others that are to be found in the more inland parts of the kingdom; but then to make amends, there is a great variety of sea-fish, and several sorts of trouts, which are in great plenty in their proper season. In the rivers Alan and Laine, near Pendavy, they have a grey trout, the flesh of which, in the summer, is red and delicate. In the river Fawey or Fowey, near Lostweithyel, there is a

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black trout, taken in the months of May and June, sometimes three feet long. In July the salmon-peel comes up the same river, but it is commonly caught at the mouths of rivers. About the latter end of August another trout appears, which, from the time it is seen, is called the Bartholomew-trout. It is generally about 18 inches long, but the belly is deeper than that of the black trout, and the flesh is red, and in higher esteem.

The salmon is properly a sea-fish, but it comes occasionally into the rivers to cast its spawn. It is caught in the river Fowey at two wears, from the latter end of the spring, till autumn; it is also taken in great plenty in lord Edgecumbe's wear at Cuthel, on the river Tamer.

Having described all the rivers of any note to be met with on this extensive coast, we shall next mention the lakes.

Four miles north of the church of St. Noet's, and about 14 miles from Loo, the waters of the adjacent hills are collected into a bason, and form a small lake of about a mile in circumference, called *Dozmery Pool*. It is about nine feet deep, and contains no fish but eels.

Between the parish of Budoc and that of Fal-mouth, is a small creek, not above half a mile in length, and a quarter wide, separated from the sea by a bar of sand and shingles. This is now called *Swan Pool*, from the swans which were formerly kept here. The eels of this water are large, and accounted extremely good.

The most considerable lake in Cornwall is named *Low Pool*, which lies between the parish of Sithney on the west, and those of Helton and Maugan on the east. It is about two miles long, and a furlong wide. It is formed by a bar of pebbles, sand and shingles, forced up

against

the mouth of this creek, by the south-west wind. This bar dams up the water that proceeds chiefly from Lo river, till it comes to a stone bridge, called St. John's-bridge. About a mile below it, the lake begins to overspread the whole valley, and in half a mile more, the depth increases from three to ten feet, making a little creek into Penross. From hence the pool deepens, and at length comes to the depth of 26 feet, and then it shallows again. However, during the winter, the whole valley is often covered with water, from the town of Helston, to the edge of the sea. At that season, the town-mills are commonly stopped up by the swelling of the lake, at which time the mayor of Helston applies to the lord of Penross, presenting him a few half-pence in a leathern purse; upon which he has a right to cut through the bar, in order to let out the redundant water, and the mills are set going again. Hence it appears that if this bar was always kept open, there would be a good haven up to Helston. The cliffs round this lake are moderately high, and between them there is a very distinct echo, which, though agreeable in a calm, is terrible in a tempest.

This pool breeds a kind of trout which deserves a particular description. It is near 16 inches long, with a large eye, and the back of a deep purple colour, but the scales are of a silver hue. The belly, from the strait line which passes from the gills to the middle of the tail, is of a bright pearl colour, spotted for the most part with scarlet, but the spots on the back are purplish. Though the salmon-peel above-mentioned, in some measure resembles this trout, it is a different fish, having a more circular back, and the lower mandible rather longer than the upper, besides other distinctions.

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With respect to the medicinal springs of this county, *Madern Well*, in the parish of that name, in Powder hundred, is much frequented for the curing of pains, aches, and stiffness of the limbs, by bathing; and many cures are said to be performed, which must be owing to its being a cold bath, for it does not appear to have any mineral impregnation.

In the parish of Sancred, in the same hundred, is a well, and adjoining to it is a chapel, erected on account of the remarkable cures done by the water; it is now in ruins; yet the carved stones that remain, convince us that it has been formerly of great note. This water is famous for drying up humours, as well as healing wounds and sores, though it does not appear to have any mineral impregnation; hence it is thought that the cures are owing to the coldness of the water, which acts by bracing up the fibres, strengthening the glands, and promoting the secretion and circulation of the fluids.

Another well of the simple kind is that called *Holywell*, about a mile and an half to the north-west of St. Cuthbert's church, in Pider hundred, in a small sandy bay, where there are several caves made in the cliff by the northern sea. In one of these caves, at the north-eastern point of the bay, and at the foot of a high cliff, this well is seated. The entrance is low, but, by the help of steps cut into the rock, there is an ascent about 15 feet perpendicular, where the water distilling from every part of the roof, is collected into a little bason, whence proceeds a small rill. As the water passes through the clefts of the clay and stone, it brings down the finest parts of both, which are formed into seams, and ridges correspondent to the clefts from which they proceed. There are short mammillary processes

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hanging from the roof, which are a sort of *stalactites*, and the floor of the rock is incrustated with the same substance. The water is much commended in fluxes, and disorders of the bowels, yet it will not change colour with green tea, or milk; of course it has neither steel nor alum in its composition. If this water be evaporated to one half, no pellicle appears, nor any salts on its cooling; but it deposits a small sediment of the same colour and substance with the incrustations already mentioned. These being pulverized and placed over the fire, do not melt, nor have they any particular taste or smell; and if some of the powder be thrown into the fire, it does not turn blue, or flame, which shews that it has no sulphur in its composition.

The most remarkable mineral spring in Cornwall, and the most famous for its cures, is that which rises in the tenement of Colwien, in the parish of Ludgvan, in Penwith hundred. The bed through which this water flows is loose, abounding with pebbles, mixed with a gravelly clay, strongly impregnated with an ochrous iron mineral, from which the taste and smell of the water proceeds. With galls it turns to a deep reddish purple; with green tea to a lighter purple, and with oak leaves to a bluish black, but with a purplish cast.

This water has many virtues, and Mr. Borlase assures us, that two persons, by drinking it, and washing the parts affected, were cured of the King's Evil; he heard also of many others who were cured in the same manner. It promotes perspiration very strongly, removes obstructions and swellings of the abdomen, restores a decayed appetite, and, applied externally, cures sore eyes, and scrophulous eruptions. There are

many

ny other wells of this kind, but this is sufficient to shew their virtues.

There is one well of a different kind, called *Carn Kui* water, near Redruth, which is impregnated with tin as well as iron; but as for its virtues we have no account of them.

The marine situation of Cornwall has its advantage, for the sea fills up the bays and harbours, making a number of fishing creeks, and bringing in land, ore-weed, and fish, in many places to the very doors of the inhabitants. In short, the sea procures plenty, promotes trade, and gives many advantages unknown to the inland counties. However, it is not without its inconvenience, on account of the numerous promontories jetting out on each side, and making deep bays, dangerous to sailors in stormy weather. Besides, ships often mistake one channel for another, and are drawn aside from their true course by the inequality of the tides. Add to this, that their irregularity is increased at the extremity of Cornwall by the Scilly Islands, which also increase, by their proximity, the velocity of the current. The spring-tide at the Land's-End usually rises 18 feet, and from that to 24, according to the wind and weather, and in stormy weather it has even risen to 30 feet. However, the common neap-tides usually rise no higher than 14 feet, but, what is most remarkable, the tide sets inward from the south at the Land's-End, near nine hours, and the ebb continues only for three or four hours, which ought to be taken notice of by all seamen. Add to this, that the latitude of the Lizard was never till lately, during the last war, certainly determined, though this is the first land that ships usually make when they are homeward bound, and the longitude is not yet with any

certainty

tainty determined. The highest tide is generally about two days and a half after the new and full moon, and later than at London-Bridge an hour and fifty-five minutes. The variation of the needle has been usually said to be 18 degrees westerly; but in October 1757 it was found to be 19 degrees 12 minutes; hence it appears that the variation constantly increases; besides, in the year 1700, Dr. Halley found it to be no more than seven degrees and a half.

It may not be amiss in this place to take notice, of a few of the many kinds of fish with which the coasts of Cornwall abound. Of these, as being largest in size, those of the whale kind must naturally first attract our notice. That kind of Whale which is called the *Blower*, or the fin-fish, the *Physeter* of authors, is found in these seas, and has its name from blowing the water to a considerable height, through a pipe, or hole in its head. The *Grampus*, also, found here is usually 18 feet long; it is sometimes so large that it will weigh 1000 pounds, and it is so voracious that it will prey even upon porpoises.

The *Porpoise* has the back fin pointing forwards towards its head, and sloping away backwards, which is a singularity observable in no other. It is called *Porcus Piscis*, or the Hog-fish, from the quantity of fat which covers the whole body under the skin, or perhaps from the shape of its snout, and its wallowing in the water.

The *Blue-Shark* frequents the Cornish shore during the pilchard season, and is so great an enemy to fishing-nets, that the fishermen have large hooks made by the country smiths, on purpose to catch them.

The *Sea-Fox* is called by the Cornish *the Thresher*, from the motion of its long tail, with which it strikes its enemy the grampus, whenever

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rises to the surface of the water to breathe. There is another shark called the *Porbeagle*, which is different from those described by any author.

The *Monk*, or *Angel-Fish*, is of the flat kind, and is termed by some the mermaid-fish; it seems to be of a middle nature, between a dog-fish and a ray. One of these was taken in July 1757, at Penzance, in a trammel-net. The belly is white, the back of the colour of a sole, without streaks of white.

The *Fishing-Frog*, by some called the *Sea-Devil* is, a very remarkable fish, and worthy the notice of such as travel in these parts.

The *Turbot*, or *Bret*, is an excellent fish, and comes in the summer and autumn in such plenty to Mounts-Bay, that two boys have taken thirty of them in the evening with a hook and line. The fish called in Cornwall the *Lug-a-Leaf* is named in London the *Pearl*. There are also the *Plaice*, *Dab*, and *Flounder*, besides the *Halybut*, the flesh of which is nearly as good as that of the turbot; it is the largest of the flat kind; but that called the *Whisk*, approaches nearest to the taste of a turbot.

The *Sole* is frequently caught on the sandy shores of this county, but they are the largest near the Scilly islands. There is also a smooth sole, called the *Lantern*, on account of its transparency. The *Conger-Eel* is the largest of the eel kind, but the *Free-Eel* has a milder taste, and fewer small bones. There is also a *Sea-Adder*, which is a kind of needle-fish; it is 16 inches long, and has a back and tail fin, with scales, shaped like those of the land adder. One of these being opened, there were found in its belly some hundreds of young fry, resembling little eels, which being put into the water, moved to and

fro;

fro; this sea-adder had a semi-circular furrow on the back.

A *Sun-Fish* was taken at Penzance in May 1743, which was three inches thick at the back, and only three quarters of an inch at the belly. The tail was gristly and transparent, and the colour was dappled, with darker spots on the back; the belly was of a silver pearl colour, with streaks half an inch wide, consisting of two lists of a dark colour, between which there was one in the middle, of a pearl colour, spotted with black.

On this coast there is also a fish of the Tunny kind, by some called the *Spanish-Mackerel*. Mr. Ray saw one of these at Penzance seven feet long; they will sometimes weigh 500 pounds. This fish differs from the common Mackerel only in being much larger, and having no spots. The common Mackerel is caught in great plenty on the southern coast of Cornwall, and the inhabitants not only eat the fresh, but salt and pickle it for winter use, to the great relief of the poor.

The *Whistle-Fish*, the *Sea-Loach*, a particular species of *Sucking-Fish* caught here, and the *Bull-Card*, may be placed among the slippery eel kind. A fish resembling the *Dracunculus* of Rondeletius, was taken in Mounts-bay in 1756, but it was twice as large as those of the same species taken in the Mediterranean; when it first came out of the water, it exhibited all the various shades of a lively yellow, pearl-colour, and blue.

The *Sea-Dragon* is seldom seen near Cornwall, and has not been well described by authors. It has a deep furrow on its back, as was observed in 1757, in which it can conceal the poisonous spines of its back fins.

The *Basse* has an elegant shape, and a compact structure. The *Mullet* is generally taken in small nets, near the shore. The *Gurnards* are

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thus called, from their grunting like a sow; but in Cornwall they are called *Pipers*, because the sound they produce is thought to resemble that of a pipe. Of these are the *Gray-Gurnard*, the *Tub-Fish*, the *Red-Gurnard*, or *Rocket*, the *Piper*, the *Streaked-Gurnard*, and the *Sur-Mullet*, which is excellent eating. The *Doree*, or *Gilded-Fish*, has a firm flesh and is much in request, though it is somewhat drier than the sole or turbot. It is common in the pilchard season, and the largest are sold at about six-pence each.

Of fishes with a single fin on their backs there are the *Herring* and the *Pilchard*; as also the *Shad* and the *Sprat*, or which there are two sorts, one the offspring of the pilchard, the other of the herring. The pilchard fishery is one of the most considerable in the kingdom. They swarm from July to November in such quantities that 500,000 have been caught at one draught, and 8 or 900 hogsheads filled in a season, at one fishery only, viz. at Mousehole, near Mounts-bay. There are also two sorts of *Garr-Fish*, or *Horn-Fish*, one of which is called the *Gerrock*, and the other the *Skipper*, it being remarkable for moving its upper-jaw. Besides these, there is the *Black-Fish*, which has very small thin scales: it is 15 inches long, and three-quarters of an inch broad, exclusive of the fin; the head and nose are like those of a trout. The mouth is little, the teeth are very small, and the eye is full and bright.

Of shell-fish, besides *Museles*, *Limpets*, *Cockles*, *Wrinkles*, and *Crabs* of every sort, there is the *Long-Oyster*, which is the sea-locust of Aldrovandus; and *Lobsters* are in such plenty that well-boats come here to load, and carry them alive to London, and elsewhere. There are great quantities of the *Shrimp* kind taken in Helford-harbour, Mounts-bay, and other places in calm

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weather: also the *Soldier-Crab*, or *Hermit-Shrimp*, remarkable for taking possession of some empty shell for his habitation. *Oysters* are very plentiful in Cornwall; the best are taken in the creeks in Constantine parish, and they are always the best tasted when the waters have no communication with the mines. These have a prodigious strength in clasping their shells, insomuch that we are told by Carew that three mice endeavouring to seize an oyster when the shell was open, it closed and killed them all. We are also told by another gentleman of great veracity, that, as he was fishing, a lobster was seen to attempt an oyster several times, but as soon as the lobster approached, the oyster shut his shell; however, at another opening, the lobster made a shift to throw a stone between the gaping shells, and then easily devoured the oyster.

There are also on this coast, several kinds of shell-fish, with only one valve; but it would be enlarging too much to enumerate them. Fossil shells are extremely rare in this county, which may appear somewhat strange, considering it is in a manner surrounded by the sea; but this however has been variously accounted for.

Sea-Nettles, called by the sailors *Blobbers*, have that name from affecting the hands like a land-nettle. They are to be found on almost every pool on the sea shore, and in some caves washed often by the tide. They vary in colour from scar-let to the deepest purple, and are finely powdered with yellow specks. Their claspers, by which they fix themselves to the rock, have as great strength as their arms, which wave to and fro in search of food.

The sea-nettle, called *Medusa*, has not hitherto been fully described; the figure is round, with a convex back, and the center is marked with a

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seeded

seeded circle of an auburn brown. At three quarters of an inch distance from the circle, 16 rays begin, which point inward to the center, and divide into two branches, or legs, as they tend to the circumference, each leg terminating in a little egg-like knob, half an inch long, and one fourth of an inch distant from each other.

All sea-nettles swim obliquely, contracting themselves, and expanding their brim alternately, promoting their rest and motion by their legs; however they cannot move very fast, for which reason they are a prey to the larger fish, and according to Borlace, are sometimes eaten by mankind.

The *Star-Fish* has been found near Penzance, but that with ten rays is very uncommon; for those that are most frequently found have but five. In this sort the bristles of the back are high and spinous. There are several sorts of these chiefly distinguished by their colours.

On the shores of Mounts Bay the bones of cuttle-fish are frequently found, and are used by silver-smiths for polishing.

The *Leloligo*, or *Ink-fish*, was found in Mounts Bay in 1757. The body is 11 inches long, flattish, and an inch and an half thick, spreading on each side into a thin triangular fleshy substance, which serves instead of fins when in the water. The tail is more blunt than that described by Rondeletius, the head is globular, and one inch and an half high. It has ten feelers, of various lengths. The fins serve for arms, and have probably a very lively sense of feeling. The juice of this fish is so black that it may be used for ink, and the animal pours it out to conceal itself when in danger.

Seals, or *Sea-Calves*, are by the Cornish called the Soyle; and these are common in such caves

of

of the sea-shore as are not much frequented. This animal is from five feet long to seven, and the head is somewhat like that of a calf; its pectoral fins resemble the fore feet of quadrupedes, with five toes connected by a membrane with which it can throw stones at its pursuers. The tail is horizontal, and supplies the want of fins in the hinder parts. The seal is amphibious, for it cannot always live in the water, but must come ashore to rest and breathe. The poor people on the northern coasts of this county, eat the flesh in times of scarcity.

Tortoises, or Turtles, are not natives of the coasts of Cornwall, yet there were two caught in 1756. One was taken by the drovers in the makerel-nets four leagues south of Pendenis-castle, and brought alive to Truro. It had seven spinous ridges in its shell, and six flat, smooth, fleshy fins, without nails, of a bluish colour; but on the under part they are ruddy, flesh-coloured, and speckled with dark spots, as well as the under part of the neck. It weighed about 800 pounds, and was six feet five inches in length, from the tip of the nose to the end of its shell. The other taken by the drovers off the Lands-end, weighed six hundred and three quarters, after it was bled to death.

As we are now on the subject of the sea, and its produce, it may not be amiss to take some notice of the submarine plants found in Cornwall. These are distinguished into *stony, woody, and herbaceous;* among the last, the most common is the *grass-wrecks sea-wrecks,* otherwise *ore-weed;* of this there are great varieties on the sea-coast; two of which have their capillary ramifications wonder fully distinct, and of a most beautiful lake colour, even to the very extremity. The largest and noblest plant of this kind, is the *Bloody Seed*

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Dock