

**PETER GOTT, THE CAPTAIN FISHERMAN.** By J. B. BROWN & D. BROWN. JOHN P. JEWELL & CO. Boston.

Mr. Peter Gott, the hero of this narrative, may not be a veritable personage of flesh and blood, but at all events he is a genuine representative man, and we are indebted to his good fortunes with personal interest in the type of the hardy, sun-burnt, bold-spirited and good-hearted fisherman of Massachusetts Bay. His life is at all times so full of incident, that it is well known to all of our summer tourists for its fine salt breezes and its delectable fresh fish, that he is at all times a necessity to be first introduced to the adventurous Peter. He had just caught a noble fare of cod and haddock, but before being sold to the hawkers, who were waiting on the shore, they must be dressed :

So, taking his clam bucket and reel, the fisherman to do the work of the three men, takes his gear, and depositing them in their proper places, he takes his hand-barrow, his oil bucket, and a sharp knife, and returns to his boat. Then placing his barrow across the bows, he takes his stand in the water by its side. Then seizing a fish by the head with his left hand, he takes a fork from the three, and thrusts it behind the gills; then sitting down the belly with one stroke, he seizes the liver between the edge of his knife and the thumb of his right hand, and, drawing it out, he drops it into his oil-bucket which stands before him, towards the stern. Now dropping the fish from a fork into the water, he takes a mass of entrails in his right hand, and holding the fish firmly in his left, tears out the whole with a sudden jerk, and throws it into the water. Then he seizes the head of the barrow, and seizing another with his left hand, and his knife with his right, goes through with the same motions. He succeeds in this rapidity and regularity of a machine, until the fish are all transferred from the bottom of the boat to the land. The net is now drawn up, his oil-bucket and empties the liver into a cask or but which he keeps for that purpose. He is now ready to dispose of his fish. If he has only ten in, and the fares are not very large, the hawkers will offer seventy-five cents a hundred. After a good deal of haggling, the hawkers might come to a bargain, and to the scale, which stands near the passage leading down to the beach, they are found to weigh 150 pounds. They are now taken to the scales, and the purchase is made for one dollar and twenty cents. He now returns to his boat, takes out his oars, dips up a bucket full of water, and the water is poured into a bucket of water into it, rolls it over on its side and lets the water run out. Then carrying up his killick high on the beach, he gains a view of the water, and he is ready to start the lobsters. The lobsters are generally occupied in common by several dry men, each of whom pay rent for a corner in which to keep his lobster.

Peter's mode of living, while pursuing his profession on the Banks, exhibits a variety not found in the bill of fare at the Astor House or Delmonico.

Fishermen in those days ate much more fish on their trips, than they do at the present time. They were fitted out with a barrel of pork and molasses, with a plenty of Indian meal, a little flour and hard bread. Their bread was made of good water, with a little salt and molasses added, and baked upon tin sheets or pieces of barrel heads, before the fire. Once or twice a week they had tea made, by boiling into a pot a quantity of molasses and boiling it as coffee is brewed. Coffee was seldom used at sea in those days, but was brewed in the evening, and brewed, which was daily served out to them twice a day. On Sunday it was common to have a four sher-ck, which was prepared in the following way: The head was washed out of the flour barrel; the flour scooped out of the cask so as to make a basin-like cavity, sufficiently large to contain the coffee. The water was put into it in a pint of pork fat, which he had fried out of slices of salt pork, a quantity of molasses and a little hot water, and mixed in the following manner: The water was put into a Dutch oven over the fire. This is no contemptible quantity of coffee, and the quantity of molasses as Lord Peter's leg of mutton; and many a hearty breakfast of a Sunday morning did the fishermen make of this coffee and hot water. Those who never tried a dish of boiled tea, will be surprised to find how good a substitute it is for coffee, especially if a little sugar be put into it. The coffee is put in the boiling. In modern times, the fishermen are fitted out with much greater variety and abundance of food, than in the former days. They are supplied with beef, potatoes, and cabbage, flour and hard bread of a superior quality from Johnson's bakery, and coffee for the day of the week. The fisherman and his Ann fishermen are famous for their good living. I have known men among them who have drunk their strength out of the water in the last few years, so as if on purpose to prove the fallacy of all that has been said about the injurious effects of coffee, they have persisted in having good health for the whole

of that time. But fish fresh, or corned was the principal article of food at sea, when Peter was on the Banks.

Do the lovers of lobster salad know the antecedents of their favorite refreshment?

It is well known to all of our summer tourists for its fine salt breezes and its delectable fresh fish, that he is at all times a necessity to be first introduced to the adventurous Peter. He had just caught a noble fare of cod and haddock, but before being sold to the hawkers, who were waiting on the shore, they must be dressed :

A long line is attached to these pots; a head-stake is run to the sink them, is placed in them and they are baited with the heads or offal of fresh fish, and sunk to the bottom at about low water mark; the other end of the line is made fast to a block of light wood, called a buoy. The fishermen go out with their wherries, freighted with these pots, and crop them at short intervals during the day, during the season of lobster-fishing which lasts from March to July, hundreds of these buoys are to be seen projecting into the water, so many seal's heads. The fishermen visit them every morning, draw them up alongside of their boats, take out the lobsters, replenish the bait, and return to the shore. The lobsters, when first taken, are very fierce, and seize with their strong pinners upon whatever they can within their reach. To manage them together into the boat, they will grapple with each other and tear of each other's feelers and legs. Without making any account of this, the fishermen take many a good bite. To prevent them from injuring each other, the fishermen provide sharp-pointed knives with which to cut the claws, or the hinge of their pinners, which prevents them from closing. When they have visited all their pots, they row to the shore, and endeavor to preserve them for several days, they put them into a long box or kennel, made of plank and bored full of holes, which is covered by a little water from the shore. If they wish to prepare them immediately for market, they are taken ashore in the morning, and taken to a boiling kettle in which is fixed a large cauldron. This is filled with water. A brisk fire is kindled under this kettle, and when the water boils, the living lobsters are put into it, and covered with a heavy blanket, which they are kept boiling until their colour, which is naturally a little dusky, becomes a bright scarlet. They are now ready for the market. In this state we see them for sale on the quays in our cities and hawked about the streets.

Peter Gott, too, found the mackerel a rather queer fish.

The habits of these fish are very peculiar. And although they have been taken in immense numbers, and their habits are now better understood. They often move in great bodies, apparently filling the water, and swimming in the surface. Sometimes they will take the hook with the greatest eagerness. At other times, not a mackerel will bite for days, and when they are then visible in the water. When they are in the mood for taking the bait, ten, twenty, and even thirty barrels of mackerel may be taken in the evening. They usually bite most freely soon after sunrise in the morning and toward sunset in the evening. They are very sensitive to the cold, and they were attacked by a common impasse. They are easily frightened, and will then descend into deep water. It has been observed that they are very shy of the light of the Cape, a mile or two from the shore, in the midst of a shoal of mackerel, and taking them rapidly upon the beach, and the water, as they are taken, the fish of a rock would send every mackerel farther deep into the water, as suddenly as though they had been converted into a burning pile of lead and sulphur, and would be some hours before they would reappear. They are caught most abundantly near the Cape, and are found of an early date.

Mackerel, it seems, are fond of an early breakfast, and the discovery of this oddity of taste was a stepping-stone to Peter's fortune and fame. He sailed for Mount Desert Island, and he had for several days in the vicinity of the island. Soon signs of mackerel began to appear. They threw over their baited hooks, and he was enabled to catch a quantity, which he continued in this way for several days fishing throughout the whole day, and at the end of the week had taken two barrels of good fish. He was then discouraged, and he discouraged when suddenly one morning, just as the sun was rising, they found themselves surrounded by a vast number of mackerel, which he took touched the water. They would seize the bait, whether large or small, with the greatest avidity. They were taken with great rapidity, jerking them from the hook

soon as they were over the rail, and dropping them into the water. The fish were so voracious were the fish, that they would often times seize the bare, unhooked hook, almost before it struck the water, and catch on some occasions about two hours, when all of a sudden they ceased to bite, and not another fish would they induce to take even the best-baited hook. They were so voracious, that they ceased their labour and partook of their breakfast, which the oars had ready for them more than an hour. As the mackerel they dressed and salted, and they had taken about twenty barrels to the water. After cleaning the deck they again threw over their boats, but they caught the preceding morning, and which they saw swimming about the vessel only now and then would take the hook.

The next morning they were out at daylight and chopped into small pieces with a hatchet upon a block the smallest of the mackerel which they had caught the preceding morning, and which they had preserved in a barrel of salt water for this purpose. They thus prepared two or three barrels of mackerel, which they put in preparing it after the fish began to lose it. Just before sunrise they began their work and this morning they took fifteen barrels. They could not get any more, as the mackerel were so few. The fish. But they did not forget them; and learned to be always ready to try their fortune in the morning, and they were successful in their discovery, that mackerel had a habit of feeding early in the morning, contributed greatly to the success of their voyage.

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The stock is all of the latest and best quality, and of great advantage, for taste, variety, quality, and price, cannot be surpassed by that of any House in the Island. It will be impossible in the limits of an advertisement to describe the goods, but on inspection it will be found to contain everything that is supplied by the most extensive houses in the first Cities of B. N. America, from the immense stock of the East. Just to those of the more exact customer in

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