

has taken in the conferences and in the discussions which have taken place throughout the exhibition were acknowledged to be of very great benefit and advantage to all those concerned.

We would wish also to bring under your excellency's notice the service of the assistant commissioners, Messrs. Earll, Bean, Clark, and Captain Collins and the gentlemen in charge of special exhibits, who have so ably carried out the duties intrusted to them by your Government.

And, further, we cannot conclude without expressing our gratitude for the eminent services rendered in the jury department, for the whole of the Exhibition, by the following gentlemen, namely, Messrs. Earll, Hitchcock, Russell, and Clark, and also Captain Collins and Lieutenant McLellan, who were so good as to undertake the onerous duties of the jury work.

(The great International Fisheries Exhibition, London, 1883. Royal Horticultural Gardens, Exhibition Road, South Kensington.)

LONDON, *November 16, 1883.*

153.—PROPOSED PROPAGATION OF CATFISH AS A FOOD-FISH.

By DAVID S. JORDAN.

[From a letter to Prof. S. F. Baird.]

I feel very favorably inclined toward the catfish for the purpose mentioned. The two best species, so far as my experience goes, are *Amiurus nebulosus* and *A. melas*. The white cat of the Potomac (*A. albidus*) is good looking, but I have had no experience with it in life.

A. nebulosus (catus : atrarius) is the common cat of the Schuylkill, Delaware, Hudson, and the Great Lakes. It is the species so successfully introduced into the Sacramento, and it is now daily in large numbers sent to the San Francisco markets. I should suppose that some seining point on the Great Lakes or the Delaware River would be the best place to get this.

A. melas is darker and grows rather smaller. It is very hardy and grows rapidly, getting its full size in about three years. It is widely distributed, but I have found it commonest where I was born, in the Genesee country. I had these on the farm, when a boy, and reared them in a large frog pond, fed by rains only. They are at least not inferior to the other in hardiness or in quality as food.

Of the larger cats *A. nigricans*, reaching a weight of 25 to 50 pounds, is probably the best. In the South are numerous others of which *A. natalis*, also a small species, seems to promise most. But for the North and for other countries, *A. nebulosus* is probably best worth trying.

INDIANA UNIVERSITY,
Bloomington, Ind., April 30, 1884.