

SO.—CULTURE OF EDIBLE SNAILS.

By RUD. HESSEL.

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

Regarding the cultivation of the *Helix pomatia* and the *H. adspersa*, I have to report that if you intend a trial with either of these next year steps will have to be taken to get some of them during the next two months, as this is the season when they can be shipped best and can be found in the finest condition. I think we can get the *H. pomatia* in Bavaria or Wurtemberg, and two other kinds, the *H. adspersa* and the *H. nauticoïdes*—which latter I consider to be the best in taste of all—in Italy and Southern France (Genoa, Marseilles, and Bordeaux). In each of the countries the mediation of a consular agent might be requested. The prices are not very high yet in Germany, perhaps five or six marks [about \$1.30] per hundred for selected ones. It may be that the *H. adspersa* and the *H. nauticoïdes* could be obtained for the same price.

The Romans, as you know, raised these animals in their *cochlearia* about 2,000 years ago, and they introduced their cultivation into Germany and France. In Germany the practice was reintroduced by the monks of the eighth century in their convent gardens. They sometimes adopted the better plan of collecting them in the field and keeping them in garden-beds to fatten. The method which I desire to introduce is a different one from that used by either the Romans or the German monks: I raise them from the egg.

The cultivation of these species is very interesting; and in a rich country like America there is no doubt but that they will bring good prices in the market, notwithstanding the excellent oysters, clams, &c., which we have. I hope that you will decide in favor of this enterprise.

WASHINGTON, D. C., November 17, 1883.

 51.—AMERICAN BLACK BASS PLACED IN THE RIVER NENE, ENGLAND.

By JOHN T. HENSMAN.

[Abstract from the Fishing Gazette, December 1, 1883.]

Of 1,200 black bass brought from the United States by Mr. W. T. Silk, 140 were placed in the river Nene. They were from 4 to 7 inches in length. The river has a number of small backwaters with swift currents and gravelly bottoms, and also deep, quiet holes. Fishing will be prohibited for some years until the fish are well established. I think the Nene and the Welland are the only rivers in England where the bass have been put; but they are in several lakes.