

feed, when many may be captured in the shallow water along shore, often when it is not more than two or three inches deep. They have a peculiar translucent whitish appearance in the night-time. They can move themselves quickly over the stones either in or out of the water, but do not seem to be alarmed by a person moving around near them, either in the day or night, unless they are touched or otherwise disturbed.

PORT OF SPAIN, TRINIDAD.—Many of the fish for market are caught in seines on the flats off the mouth of the Caroni River. Some of these fish very nearly resemble our alewives. These flats extend half a mile or more from shore, the water being from a few inches to three or four feet deep. They are of mud near the shore, but gradually change to sand as you get farther out. Fish are very abundant over them, and it is also a great fishing ground for the herons, pelicans, &c. Many fish are also caught with hooks and lines along the shore, both by still-baiting and by trolling.

44.—PROPAGATING BUFFALO-FISH.

By A. A. MOSHER.

[Letter to Prof. S. F. Baird.]

In experimenting with the common buffalo-fish, (which is very common here and grows to weigh as much as 60 or 70 pounds,) I found no difficulty in propagating them. I took several of both sexes, when about ready to deposit their eggs, and put them in a small sunken place about 15 feet square and 18 or 20 inches deep, gravelly bottom, with cane grass growing all through it. I paid no attention to them except to take them out after spawning. In the fall I found thousands of small buffalo about 1½ inches long, notwithstanding there were two large black bass there all the time. I write this to show what can be done with this fish. I do not consider the buffalo a good edible fish, it being generally coarse and oily. They could be propagated advantageously, and serve as food to be given to game or edible fishes.

When the water begins to grow warm, after the ice goes out, these fish are around the shores in immense quantities; they are in bunches of from three to seven or eight, the female is in the center, and when she sinks to the bottom to deposit her eggs, the males crowd around and under her, pushing her to the top of the water, until their tails and fins are out, then they make a tremendous rush, causing the water to foam, and with a noise which can be heard on a still evening a mile. They go ahead for a few rods, then sink, and the same performance is done over. The people call it "tumbling;" in fact, it is a sight which once seen will never be forgotten.

SPIRIT LAKE, IOWA, April 24, 1885.