

Vol. III, No. 11. Washington, D. C. Aug. 31, 1883.

boats have nets down, but they have not been hauled this week. The nets are all used up. If the fish remain in the nets over twenty-four hours they are scaled; the sand fleas take the scales off and suck the blood out of the fish. Then they have to be sold for half price.

GLOUCESTER, MASS., *March 25, 1883.*

12.—THE AMERICAN PURSE-SEINE SUCCESSFUL IN THE HERRING FISHERIES OF SWEDEN.

By S. J. MARTIN.

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

You will probably be interested to know that a purse-seine has been successfully used in the herring fisheries of Sweden, near Gottenborg. My son, Capt. George H. Martin, informs me that Andrew Swinton, who formerly fished from Gloucester in schooner Northern Eagle, returned home to Gottenborg in 1879, and writes to William Swinton, his brother, now living in Gloucester, to the following effect: "In the spring of this year (1882) I bought some twine and had a purse-seine made here in the same style as the Gloucester seines, and went off in a small craft to try it on the herring in this vicinity. I am doing first rate, and think the purse-seine can be used to great advantage in these waters. This is the first purse-seine that I know of ever being used on this coast." I can get more facts when William Swinton returns from a fishing trip.

GLOUCESTER, MASS., *October 17, 1882.*

I have seen Mr. Swinton and learned what I could concerning the use of the purse-seine in Sweden. This Andrew Swinton is a brother of the William Swinton who lives in Gloucester. He went mackerel fishing from this port for five years with seines; but went back to Sweden three years ago and settled there. In Sweden it seems that they catch most of their herring with drag-seines; but for the three years last past the herring have kept so far off shore that the fishermen could not reach them well with a drag-seine. Last winter Mr. Swinton had a purse-seine made, which was 840 feet long and 90 feet deep. This seine excited much interest among the fishermen. The first time it was set 50 barrels of large herring were caught. Mr. Swinton does not state how many herring he has caught during this summer, but says that he did well, and has made three times as much as any other fisherman in Gottenborg. He states also that next year there will be three more purse-seines used.

GLOUCESTER, MASS., *November 10, 1882.*