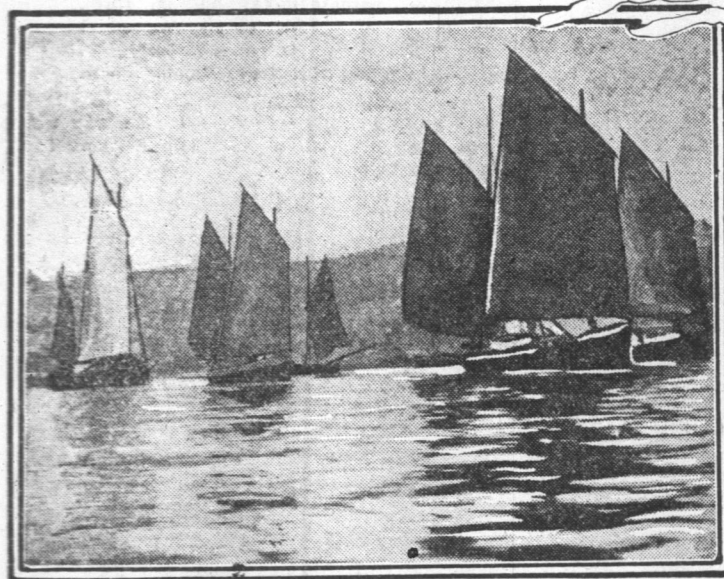


# CODFISH SUPPORTS THOUSANDS

BY BYRON HENNING



ATYPICAL GLOUCESTER FISHERMAN



OFF TO THE FISHING GROUND

"H

AVE you acclimated yet?" inquired a genial tourist of another tourist of the same genus, as they awaited a train in the depot at Gloucester, Mass.

"Acclimated?" asked the G. T. of the second part. "To what?"

"To this codfish smell, of course," answered G. T. No. 1. Even the air is fishy in Gloucester, but nobody complains, for it is the coast city's way of earning a livelihood. It is not the smell of fish in the process of decay or of salt fish, but it is the exhilarating ozone of the Atlantic, for the fish that you smell in Gloucester are freshly caught. Gloucester has really never known anything else, for since its beginning approaching three centuries ago, it has always had fishing for its chief industry, and today it is the greatest fishing center of the United States, and, according to the belief of many, of the world.

Nothing more picturesque can be imagined than this quaint New England town, where from the ocean the 30,000 inhabitants get the greater part of their sustenance.

Gloucester is 31 miles from Boston, and it includes the villages of Annisquam, Bay View, East Gloucester, Freshwater Grove, Lanesville, Magnolia, Riverdale and West Gloucester.

The magnificent harbor, large and affording safe water room for the largest ships of the world, has had the effect of encouraging traffic in other things besides fish. Salt, coal and lumber are largely imported. There are interests in granite quarrying, drop forging, brass founding, the manufacture of fish glue, anchors, machinery, oil cloth, nets, twine, sails, cigars and shoes. Moreover, Gloucester also has shipbuilding plants worthy the name.

But after all it is the fishing that interests the thousands of visitors, not only those who actually spend the summer in the vicinity, but the thousands who visit Gloucester while passing through Massachusetts in the course of the popular summer tour of the New England states.

It was not until the beginning of the eighteenth century that Gloucester became especially prominent for its fisheries and its shipbuilding industries, but by the time of the outbreak of the revolution

the town had earned a vital place in the life of the colonies, and many of the ships that went out to do battle with the fighting craft of England were built and fitted out in Gloucester, a large part of the money that made them coming from patriotic contributions on the part of the owners of the big fish industry. The town had to bear the brunt of an attack by the British during the revolution, but the ships of the enemy were repulsed by the hardy seamen.

During the war of 1812 a number of privateersmen that wrought deadly execution on the commerce of the enemy were sent out from Gloucester, and many of the grizzled old salts, who attain a most venerable age in this healthy climate, can tell from tales told them by parents or grandparents of rich prizes taken by the Gloucester fishermen turned fighters.

The great storms that sweep the New England coast have ever found a favorite vortex in the vicinity of Gloucester, and many shipwrecks have taken lives near by. The large sunken rock called "Norman's Woe," which is well known to every visitor, was made famous by Longfellow with his poem, "The Wreck of the Hesperus."

Gloucester has been an incorporated city since 1873, but in many respects it is hard to think of it as anything but a fishing resort, a little village by the ocean side.

For one thing the flavor of olden times clings to it. Among the some 6,000 men who do nothing but fish there are many who have passed the 70-year-old mark, and some who have numbered as many as 80 years, yet they are still able to bear their share of the work in going after the cod and mackerel. This fishing is both arduous and dangerous.

It is done from sloops and schooners, which go out to the fishing grounds daily. On each schooner is a nest, so to speak, of dories, a series of small boats, differing in size so that one can be comfortably stowed in another, and therefore not take up much room. When the fishing-ground has been found the sailors spread around in the dories to get their catch.

Often in the fog some of the small boats get in the path of the swift-moving ocean liners, for the favorite fishing banks are directly on a line with a much-traveled route. Often not many details are obtainable of the tragedy which ensues. Only a few lines in the newspapers tell of a small boat or a number of small boats with their crews lost at sea. A hundred thrilling tales of narrow escapes can be picked up in the course of a day spent with these hardy men of the sea, but the experiences never seem to daunt them. They are ever ready for the day's trip and its hopes for reward of a boatload of the shining, squirming, panting fish.

All the labor of handling the fish has been systematized, as it had to be in a business where the bulk is so great. There is no wasted effort carrying the fish into town, nor is the dirty work permitted to mar the beauty of the city proper. Everything is done right at the wharves, where there is ever at hand a limitless supply of water to do the vitally important final labor of cleansing.

When a two-masted schooner, laden to the gunwales with its cargo of fish, comes into the wharves the fish are carried to great tubs. Over these stand a company of experts, men who have cleaned hundreds of thousands of fish, and who can make the quick cuts, and do the scraping with incredible speed. Running to each tub is a hose, and after the waste has been removed, an instant under the high pressure of water from the hose cleans out the fish completely and makes it sweet and ready for the next step in the operation. Codfish is dried and salted before being sent to the market, and the work is also done on the wharves. Here are ranged hundreds of tables, exposed to the bright sunlight. The cleaned fish are piled up in such a manner that the warm rays get a most admirable chance at them. This summer has been so hot that the fishermen have had great difficulty in drying out the cod. Instead of taking the water out in the gradual normal manner, the sun has been so fierce that it baked the fish, and in this manner many of them were cooked so hard on the outside as to be virtually worthless for the market.

But this is a rare occurrence, for under ordinary conditions the climate of New England is ideal, and the sun does the work of drying in a manner far more satisfactory than could any agency of man's production.

From the open-air drying tables the fish are shifted to the boxing and packing establishments, which are also located along the water front, and then they are made ready to be shipped to all parts of the world.

Gloucester regards its fishing industry with the same traditional pride that a native of Brussels might regard the lace industry.

From generation to generation the families of noted fishermen stick to the business, and nothing is a more familiar boast to some grizzled old follower of the sea than to be able to say that his son and grandson are both fishermen, and that there is a strong probability that a great-grandson just beginning to master the fine points of the business will be better than any of them.

The cod, of course, is the most admired of all the fish that fall to the lot of these deep-sea Izak Walton, though the mackerel is also regarded with great respect.

The deep-sea fishermen look down upon the clam diggers, but the latter can afford to ignore this contempt, for there is plenty of money to be made in the sale of the bivalves. They are to be found in plenty on the sandy shores of the neighborhood, and at all hours of the day, but especially at low tide, the clam hunters, turning up the beach with their rakes, can be seen at work. Clam shucking is an expert feature of the work, and many of the old hands make phenomenal records in dissociating the luscious clam from its protecting shell.

No weight of age weighs him down, That barefoot boy with fingers brown; There's nothing empty in his face, No burden of the human race Is on his back; nor is he dead, To joy or sorrow, hope or dread; For he can grieve and he can hope, Can shrink with all his soul from soap. No brother to the ox is he— He's second cousin to the bee. He loosens and lets down his jaw, And brings it up, his gum to "chaw." There's naught but sweat upon his brow, 'Tis slanted somewhat forward now; His eyes are bright with eager light; He's working with an appetite. Ah, no! That boy is not afraid To wield with all his might the spade! Nor has he any spite at fate— He's digging angleworms for bait. No precautions disturb his plans any more than his toilet. His very impromptu program is a providential form of protection. The future has no chance to negotiate to him large loans of trouble— not yet. Uncurbed by the tragedy, untroubled by the riddle and untried by the greatness of life, he approaches it blandly and blindly, more ready because of those facts.

(Copyright, by Joseph B. Bowles.)

"Why, you lope-eyed coyote, ain't ye got no more judgment than to sell a horse without first tellin' I've run a rope fur twenty miles around! Ain't—ugh!" broke off the speaker, reaching for another glass to throw at Wilkins. "You clam wad the lock-jaw, you fish without the light av intelligence!"

"What's the matter?" demanded Wilkins, keeping a sharp eye on the glasses. "Why, you ol' pirate, we've hanged the man ye ol' Bess to, fur a hoss

"Hello, Wilkins!" cried the speaker of the late quorum. "How's Bess?" "Dear! Oh, she's outside, buyin' canned goods."

"Buyin' canned goods, is she?" questioned the cowman. "Whin did ye learn her the trick?"

Wilkins looked about and seeing a grin on every face realized the confusion of terms. "Oh, you mean the bay; not my wife?"

"Sure!" "Well," rejoined Wilkins, hitching uneasily, "I might as well let the cat out of the bag before it's got kittens. I sold Bess this mornin' to—"

The sentence was never finished, or its end fairly drowned in a chorus of "Hells!"

"Can't a man sell his own horse?" demanded Wilkins. A glass of raw spirits whizzed over his head and crashed against the opposite wall.

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## FROM "SERVING."

Souls make their own surroundings, moving on Through lights and shadows by their presence cast; And paths, with these all gone, seem changed anon, When seen by those who trod them in the past. —George Lansing Raymond.

## THE MAN UNDER THE TREE

By DON MARK LEMON

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It would be a grim, unpleasant piece of work, to be sure; but what else could they do? The most valuable horses of the settlement had been stolen, one after another, with consummate daring and cunning, and, now that they had the guilty party in their power, were they to let him go because to hang him would be an unpleasant duty?

"Boys, all of you that have a horse you wouldn't like to lose, just step over here."

Nine of the ten came from under the tree and gathered beside their leader in the open. The tenth man—the man who remained in the shadow of the tree—was bound hand and foot and couldn't very well change his position. Besides, he was the "horse thief."

"Well, boys," demanded the leader, "are we a quorum?"

"Sure!" "The he hangs?" The nine men nodded their heads. "Good!"

"Hold on, gentlemen!" cried the Man under the Tree. "I wish again to assert that I bought this horse which you accuse me of stealing, and paid \$300 for her."

There was a loud guffaw. "You don't believe me, gentlemen?" The Man under the Tree seemed hurt.

"Believe you!" said the leader. "Why, stranger, that's old Wilkins' Bess and he'd have parted with his grandmother first."

"But, gentlemen," expostulated the Man under the Tree, "wouldn't it be wise to look up Wilkins first and ask him?"

The leader smiling, said: "Stranger, were you ever hanged?"

The Man under the Tree made a deprecatory movement. "Only twice," he said.

"Well, you're a cool un!" exclaimed the leader, when he again got his breath.

The members of the quorum then gathered in a body around the Man under the Tree. One of them took a lariat from his arm and another adjusted it about the prisoner's neck. This last man was the leader himself, and he could tie a knot that isn't down among sailor knots nor in popular religious works. It was a hangman's knot and it had never been known to fail when given a fair trial.

Then the loose end of the lariat was thrown over a strong limb of the tree.

"Gently, boys!" cautioned the leader. "Gently! He comes of good family and perhaps if he hadn't been a horse thief he had been a honor to the community. Gently!"

The body of the prisoner was drawn up, the loose end of the lariat securely fixed, and the quorum stood off and viewed its work. The hanged man swung about six feet off the ground, his face twisting towards the tree, so that the men beneath could not well see its expression. However, they did not wish to.

"Too bad," murmured the leader, "but his education was neglected. But it's too late now, boys, for moral suasion!"

The others silently nodded their heads in confirmation of this quorum, and mounting their horses rode hastily away with the bay of Wilkins in the lead.

Arriving at the settlement, about half a mile distant, the stern body gathered under the roof of the Red Dog and began a game of faro.

"Won't old Wilkins be glad when he sets eyes on that bay of his again?" The meethin' 'il be just like a father findin' a long lost daughter."

But the whiskey being strong and the playing high, the men soon forgot about Wilkins, the Man under the Tree and the bay horse, and not until Wilkins himself came walking into the Red Dog did the incidents of the earlier forenoon again recur to them.

"Hello, Wilkins!" cried the speaker of the late quorum. "How's Bess?" "Dear! Oh, she's outside, buyin' canned goods."

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## FORWARD MOVE OF FOREST SERVICE

ORGANIZATION OF FIELD DISTRICTS MARKS DISTINCT ADVANCE.



RANGERS EXAMINATION

national forest land may not be unlawfully taken up. But it rests largely with the land office of the interior department to decide whether the title should or should not be granted. The branch of lands in the district forest service organization does not mean any new assumption of land business.

There will also be in each district a chief of silviculture, who will have charge of timber sales, planting and silvicultural experiments, and a chief of operation. The latter will supervise the personnel of the forests; the permanent improvement work, through an engineer in charge; the accounts of the district, including receipts, disbursements and bookkeeping, which will be directly supervised by an expert accountant; and the routine business of the district.

In each of the lines of work the management will be in the hands of a man who is a specialist and who has had thorough experience both in the west and in Washington. The foresters and clerks at each district headquarters will number about 50.

The establishment of these field districts will bring the service into more immediate touch with the public. It is merely the completion of the movement, started some time ago, for the forests administered as far as possible by the service.

Plans for the forest service field headquarters which are soon to be established in the west are being rapidly worked out in detail. Each headquarters will be modeled after the Washington office. In all there will be six distinct headquarters, one located at each of the present inspection district headquarters—Portland, San Francisco, Albuquerque, Salt Lake, Denver and Missoula, Mont., or some other points equally well or better located for the purpose.

At the head of each office there will be a district forester and an assistant district forester. Under these will be experts in charge of the various lines of work. A chief of grazing will have

charge of range matters. A chief of products will handle the preservative treatment of timber and strength tests and study market conditions. A chief of lands will look after such matters as land examinations. The office of lands deals with questions involving the validity of claims asserted under the public land laws; applications for special use of the resources of the national forests; changes in boundaries of forests, and the examination of lands applied for under the act of June 11, 1906, for agricultural settlement.

The forest service, however, never passes on the titles themselves. That is entirely a matter for the general land office to decide. In the case of applications for homesteads under the act of June 11, 1906, the forest service is called upon to decide whether the land is in fact more valuable for agriculture than for timber, and if it is, to recommend its listing as open to entry and patent. In the case of claims the service ascertains whether any facts exist which seem to show that the claim is not a legal one, in order that

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## THE MERITS OF HIS DEFECTS

BY J. S. KIRTLEY, D.D.  
Author of "The Young Man and Himself," etc.

ple hold their breath, notably parents, aunts and teachers. Fate and fortune fight for his attention, while he goes swimming or skating. There may be possibilities in him as vast as life and as delicately uncertain as the zephyrs, but he keeps on swimming and skating and playing and hunting and fishing. He may be making decisions that send vibrations to the farthest shore line of his oceanic future, but he never hears the imperative call of the field and the forest and the stream. His motto seems to be:

"Gather ye the rosebuds while ye may; Old time is still a flying; And this same flower that blooms to-day, To-morrow may be dying."

The meaning of this apparent blending of stupidity and conceit and several other things is that he has an inv

side sensitiveness to things that are really preparing him for his future and that he is actually making some of his momentous decisions, as a sort of side issue—"while you wait" and hold your breath. He can do two or three things at once—can play, eat and make a noise; at the same time, decide affairs of destiny. His defects do not set up an agitation in his gray matter. He knows them not.

The burdens of the future are not swaying down his back. Edwin Markham rose on the nation with that dark poem on "The Man with the Hoe," in which he represents the laboring man as reduced to the level of the ox, and some one has written a travesty on that poem entitled, "The Boy with the Spade."

"Why, you lope-eyed coyote, ain't ye got no more judgment than to sell a horse without first tellin' I've run a rope fur twenty miles around! Ain't—ugh!" broke off the speaker, reaching for another glass to throw at Wilkins. "You clam wad the lock-jaw, you fish without the light av intelligence!"

"What's the matter?" demanded Wilkins,