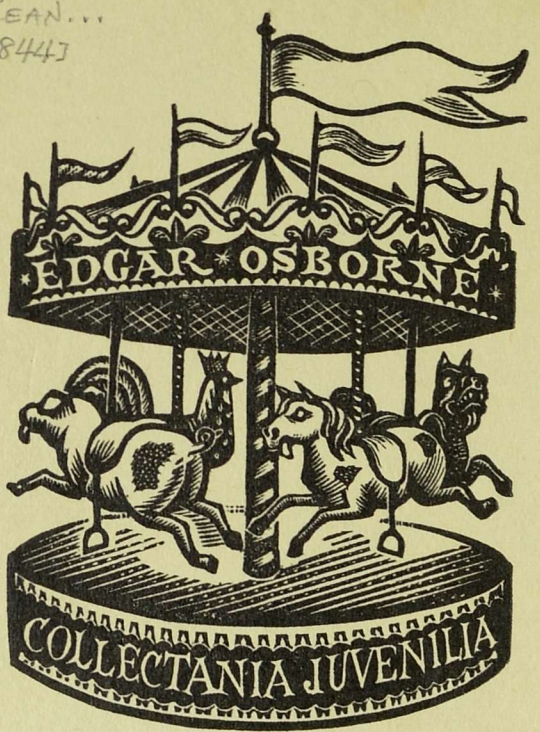
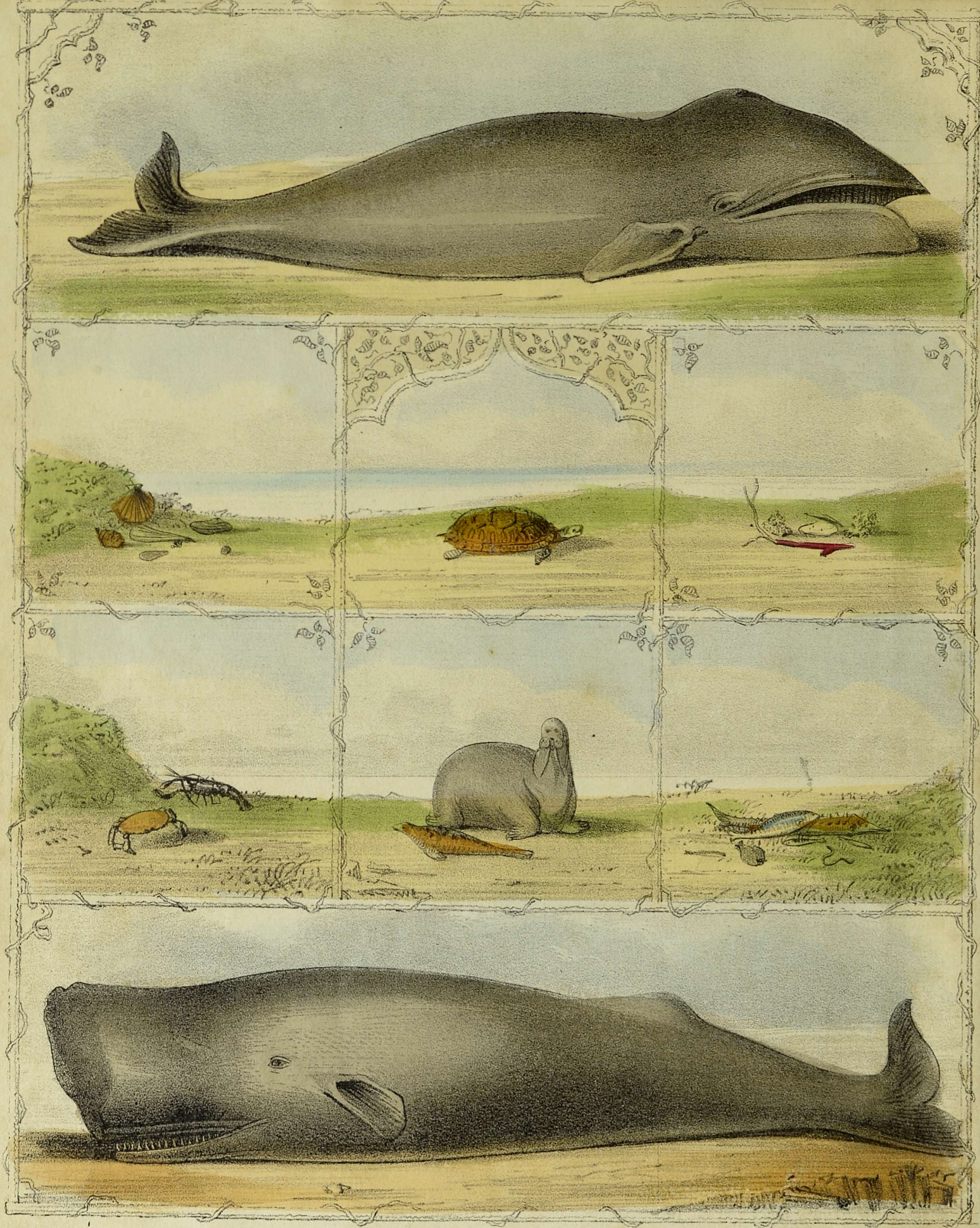

THE OCEAN AND ITS INHABITANTS





Darton & Cº. Holborn Hill.

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WITH

THEIR USES TO MAN.

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LONDON:

DARTON AND CLARK, HOLBORN HILL.

PREFACE.

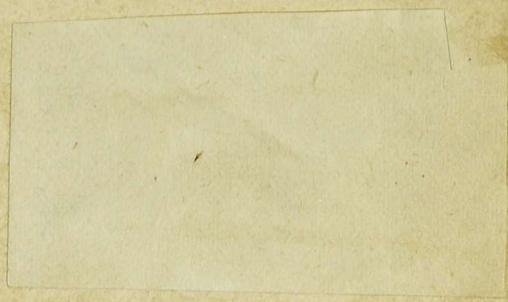
THERE are few who have had anything to do with the early instruction of children, who have not felt the want of attractive and instructive reading books, written in an easy style, and printed in a large type. It is generally admitted that there is nothing which is of more importance to a little child, when he is beginning to read, than to have his lessons in bold and clear print. The mere exclusion of long words is even less important; for it is not by any means in all cases that a word is difficult in proportion to its length, and still less to the number of its syllables.

The present work is intended to meet this want, and it is proposed that it should be the first of a series, which will form a valuable Nursery Library.

Great care has been taken to render the illustrations faithful and clear pictures of the objects they represent; and so to depict each of the chief subjects, and to illustrate in the surrounding vignettes its characters and uses, as at once to convey a distinct image to the understanding of a child, and to please his imagination. The cultivation of the taste has also been

kept in view, by a regard to correct drawing and careful colouring.

The author wishes to add, that it is no part of his design that books like the present should be read in the nursery, to the exclusion of nursery rhymes, or of works which appeal more directly to the affections and fancy; but he conceives that a taste for Natural History may be and ought to be awakened in children at a very early age, without taxing their minds with anything like regular lessons. This he conceives may be most effectually done by first exciting their healthy curiosity by pictures, and to gratify this, they will for the most part gladly undertake the reading of the book.



THE TURTLE.

THE TUR-TLE is ve-ry like the tor-toise, with a hard strong shell en-clos-ing its bo-dy; but it dif-fers from the tor-toise in be-ing of a flat-ter form, in not be-ing able to draw its head and feet back in-to the shell, and in hav-ing feet which are more like fins. The Tur-tle lives chief-ly in the wa-ter, and the tor-toise up-on land.

Tur-tles are some-times ve-ry large. I have seen one that weigh-ed more than three hun-dred pounds. They lay eggs like birds, and put them in holes in the sand on the sea shore, where the heat of the sun hatch-es them. The young Tur-tles are at first ve-ry small, not big-ger than a pen-ny piece, and their shells are quite soft. When they come out of the egg, they go to-wards the wa-ter; but be-fore they get there, they are of-ten ea-ten by the birds; and when they reach the sea, num-bers of them are ea-ten by the sharks. In these two ways a great ma-ny of the young are de-stroy-ed. When I was in In-dia, I took one of

these lit-tle crea-tures, and kept it in a tub of sea-wa-ter, and it soon learn-ed to know me, and to eat out of my hand.

One mode of catch-ing Tur-tles is to watch for them as they walk on the sea shore at night, and turn them o-ver on their backs, and you may then leave them till you can take them a-way. When they lie on their backs, they can-not turn their bo-dies o-ver a-gain, so that they are quite help-less and can-not get off. The o-ther mode of tak-ing them is by dart-ing a strong spear in-to them as they are swim-ming.

The back of the Tur-tle is co-ver-ed with ve-ry thin scales, which are call-ed tor-toise shell, and are used for co-ver-ing work box-es, card cases, knife han-dles, and o-ther ar-ti-cles. Its flesh is made in-to the soup call-ed Tur-tle soup.

There is a-no-ther kind of Tur-tle, which has a nose ve-ry much like the bill of a hawk. It is call-ed the Hawks-bill Tur-tle. The out-side scales of its shell are ve-ry thick, and are used for mak-ing combs. Thus you see, what is call-ed tor-toise shell ge-ne-ral-ly comes from the Tur-tle, though the shell of the tor-toise is al-so some-times used.

CORAL AND PEARL.

Co-ral is a ve-ry beau-ti-ful sub-stance, which is pro-duced by small crea-tures at the bot-tom of the sea. The Co-ral makers are some-thing like what are call-ed sea flow-ers, which are found on our own shores. They have a soft fleshy bo-dy, with a great num-ber of arms or feel-ers, with which they catch their prey. They oft-en spread o-pen these feel-ers, and then, when the wa-ter is clear e-nough for them to be seen, they look like pret-ty flow-ers of va-ri-ous co-lours. I can-not tell you in what man-ner they build the Co-ral. But they stick to the branch-es in im-mense num-bers, and go on work-ing year af-ter year, un-til they bring it to the sur-face of the o-cean. Sea weed and pieces of wood are then drift-ed up-on it, and birds pitch up-on it, bring-ing seeds of dif-fer-ent plants. In this way dry land is form-ed, and a great ma-ny of the is-lands of the South Sea have had this o-ri-gin.

I dare say you have oft-en seen the com-mon

white Co-ral, as branch-es of it are oft-en brought to Eng-land. There is al-so a choicer kind, of a red co-lour, of which beads, chil-dren's co-rals, ear rings, and brooches are made.

Pearls are small round sub-stances, of a white co-lour, and bright sur-face, which re-flects the light in a ve-ry beau-ti-ful man-ner. They are found in the bo-dies of se-ve-ral sorts of shell fish, but most come from the Pearl Oyster. Pearls are used for neck-laces, brooch-es, rings and ma-ny o-ther trin-kets.

The shell of the Pearl Oys-ter is used for knife han-dles, but-tons, in-lay-ing in wood for work box-es, and a great va-ri-e-ty of pur-poses. It is call-ed Mo-ther-of-Pearl.

A great ma-ny years ago Pearls were col-lect-ed in our own coun-try, but the finest Pearls are brought from the In-di-an O-cean, and es-pe-ci-al-ly the is-land of Cey-lon. The Pearl fish-ery is car-ried on by means of di-vers, who by prac-tice can re-main un-der wa-ter for two mi-nutes or more. Some of them tie stones on to their feet that they may sink to the bot-tom ea-si-ly, and they are then help-ed to rise by means of a rope.

THE FISHMONGER.

The Fish-mon-ger sells all kinds of fish which are eat-en. He keeps the fish in his shop as cool as he can, by sprink-ling them with wa-ter, and some-times by put-ting them in ice. Fish are oft-en sold by wo-men, who car-ry them a-bout the streets on their heads, in flat bas-kets.

Some fish, as you know, live in fresh wa-ter, in lakes, and ri-vers; but those re-pre-sent-ed in the pic-ture live chief-ly in the sea.

The Sal-mon is a fine large fish, which lives in the sea dur-ing a great part of the year; but it comes in-to the ri-vers to lay its spawn at a par-tic-u-lar sea-son, and at this time it is caught, as it is then much fat-ter than when it lives in the sea. Its flesh is then of a fine red co-lour, but at o-ther times it is pale, and does not make near-ly such good food. It is some-times pic-kled, but ge-ne-ral-ly eat-en fresh.

When Sal-mon go up the ri-vers in spring, if they meet with any rocks or wa-ter-falls, they

leap o-ver them; and it is won-der-ful what leaps they will per-form. I have oft-en seen one try ma-ny times be-fore he suc-ceed-ed. They are taken some-times with a rod and line, and some-times in nets. The ri-vers of Scot-land and se-ve-ral of those in Eng-land a-bound with them.

The Mack-e-rel is a ve-ry ex-cel-lent fish, which is caught in great num-bers on the coast of se-ve-ral parts of Eng-land, at the sea-son when they come in-to shal-low wa-ter to spawn.

The Her-ring is much smal-ler. At par-tic-u-lar sea-sons im-mense crowds of Her-rings come from the North seas; and as they pass by Scot-land and Eng-land vast quan-ti-ties are taken, so that in some parts the poor peo-ple al-most live up-on them for some months of the year. The finest Her-rings are taken at Loch Fyne in Scot-land, and at Yar-mouth in Nor-folk.

The Stur-geon has a long snout, which ex-tends be-yond its mouth, and is co-ver-ed with large hard scales. Its roe is salt-ed and forms ca-vi-are, which is much eat-en in some fo-reign coun-tries. The skin of the in-side, when dri-ed, is call-ed i-sin-glass, and is used in mak-ing jel-lies.

THE SPERM WHALE.

THE SPERM WHALE is the an-i-mal that pro-duces sperm oil, and the sub-stance call-ed sper-ma-ce-ti. It is found in the South Seas, and is the largest of all crea-tures that are known to ex-ist, be-ing some-times more than eighty feet in length. You may see its strange form in the pic-ture, and how it dif-fers from the com-mon Whale, in having a hump of fat on its back, like a cam-el, and a ve-ry large head, with a square blunt snout. Its eye is small, and near the o-pen-ing of the mouth. The low-er jaw is set with teeth, but there are none in the up-per jaw. It breathes through a hole at the end of the snout. His throat is larger than that of o-ther Whales, be-ing large e-nough to swal-low a man.

The Sperm Whale is a ve-ry qui-et crea-ture, and makes no noise, e-ven when at-tack-ed, ex-cept by beat-ing the wa-ter with its tail. It is ve-ry shy and ti-mid, and most-ly keeps in the deep-est parts of the o-cean, so that it is not so fre-quent-ly taken as the com-mon Whale. When he is at-

tack-ed, and can-not es-cape, he turns o-ver on his back, and fights fu-ri-ous-ly with his jaws and teeth.

Its prin-ci-pal food is the se-pia, or cut-tle fish. It is not easy to tell any-thing of the mode of feed-ing of such crea-tures as Whales, since they are al-most al-ways un-der wa-ter; but it seems like-ly, from all we know, that the Sperm Whale takes its food in a ve-ry cu-ri-ous man-ner. The in-side of its mouth is white and shin-ing; and as it lies with its jaws wide o-pen, this ap-pear-ance at-tracts the cut-tle fish, and they swim right in-to the mouth of their e-ne-my. It is known that cut-tle fish like to ap-proach any shin-ing bo-dy, for they may be caught with no o-ther bait than a piece of po-lish-ed lead, in which fish-hooks are stuck.

The sper-ma-ce-ti comes from a large ca-vi-ty in the snout, which in some Whales holds a ton. The sperm oil is pre-pared from the blub-ber or fat un-der-neath the skin. The sub-stance call-ed am-ber-gris is found in the sto-mach.

Sper-ma-ce-ti is used for can-dles, oint-ment, and me-di-cine. Sperm oil is the best oil for lamps and steam en-gines and other ma-chinery. Am-ber-gris is used chief-ly as a per-fume.

THE COMMON WHALE.

The Com-mon Whale pro-du-ces train oil and whale-bone. It is found in the North Seas, where it lives a-mong vast rocks of ice. The form is ve-ry un-couth, though not quite so strange as that of the Sperm Whale. Its mouth is not so large, nor its snout so blunt. The length is not so great, sel-dom be-ing so much as eigh-ty feet, but its body is larger round.

The Whale lives chief-ly upon very small crea-tures, some-thing like our jel-ly fish, but much small-er, which a-bound in the cold seas, where Whales live. The na-tu-ral po-si-tion of the mouth of the Whale is o-pen, with the un-der jaw hang-ing down. It has no teeth, but at the roof of the mouth are a great num-ber of strips of bone, the in-ner edges of which are co-ver-ed with a fringe of long fi-bres. As the Whale swims a-long with its mouth o-pen, the lit-tle jel-ly fish float in be-tween the bones and be-come en-tan-gled in the fi-bres, so that they can-not es-cape. When, af-ter some

hours, the Whale feels that the up-per ca-vi-ty of his mouth is full, he rais-es his low-er jaw, and swal-lows the contents.

The Whale is caught by means of a har-poon or dart, which is at-tach-ed to a ve-ry long rope. The Whale-ships send out boats, each of which has a har-poon-er, who stands in front of the boat, with the har-poon in his hand; and when he sees a Whale at a con-ve-ni-ent dis-tance, he hurls it skil-ful-ly, so that it en-ters the bo-dy of the crea-ture. The Whale then sinks down to a great depth, and some-times so far that he car-ries off the line to which the har-poon is fas-ten-ed. But at last he comes up a-gain, and the men in the boat kill him with a lance.

The train oil comes from the blub-ber or fat which co-vers the bo-dy of the Whale un-der the skin. It is used for com-mon lamps, and those which are burn-ed in light-houses. The Es-qui-maux and Green-land-ers eat the blub-ber, and use the large ribs of the whale in build-ing their huts. The whale-bone is the bone found in the mouth, which is fringed with fi-bres. It is u-sed in mak-ing um-brel-las, and for ma-ny o-ther pur-poses.

SHELL FISH.

Crabs, Lob-sters, Craw-fish, and Shrimps, are co-ver-ed with a shell, which fits their bo-dies and legs quite close-ly. The shells have joints, so that the crea-tures can move their limbs free-ly, like men dress-ed in ar-mour. You can make ve-ry good toys out of crab and lob-ster shells, and I dare say you know how to play with them, as well as I can tell you.

The shells of Crabs and Lob-sters are so hard, that you would not be able to guess how their bo-dies can in-crease in size, for there are ma-ny kinds of them which grow ve-ry fast indeed when they are young. I will tell you how this is ef-fect-ed. They moult, as it is call-ed, or change their shells. When the bo-dy gets too large for the shell, the an-i-mal eats no food, and lies quite still for a time. It then strug-gles vio-lent-ly, and after a while es-capes com-plete-ly from its shell. The pieces of shell which co-ver the legs split o-pen and fall off. When he gets free of the old shell, his bo-dy is

co-ver-ed with a soft skin, some-thing like parch-ment. This skin gets hard-er e-ve-ry hour, un-til at last it be-comes as thick and so-lid as the form-er shell. Some kinds of crabs, be-fore they are full grown, change their shells se-ve-ral times in the year.

You know that Lob-sters al-most always have one claw much larger than the o-ther. This a-rises from their hav-ing a won-der-ful pow-er of throw-ing off a limb when there is any-thing the mat-ter with it, and a new one grows in a ve-ry short time. The limb al-ways comes off at one par-ti-cu-lar joint; and if the se-pa-ra-tion takes place at any o-ther, it in-jures the crea-ture very much.

Lob-sters, Crabs, and Shrimps, live in the sea, some craw fish live in ri-vers, and some kinds of Crabs live on land, and feed on ve-ge-ta-bles. These Land Crabs move a-bout in large herds, and do much mis-chief in some coun-tries.

Lob-sters and Crabs are caught in traps of wick-er work; Shrimps are taken in nets, which men and wo-men push be-fore them on the sand where the wa-ter is shal-low.

SHELLS.

SHELLS are ve-ry pret-ty as or-na-ments, and make ve-ry pret-ty grot-toes, if they are pro-per-ly ar-ranged, and stuck to-ge-ther care-ful-ly with ce-ment. In an-cient times, when some re-li-gi-ous peo-ple u-sed to think it their du-ty to vi-sit Je-ru-sa-lem, and the o-ther pla-ces where our Sa-viour lived when he was up-on earth, it was the cus-tom for them to wear the shells of the Scal-lop on their hats and cloaks. Af-ter their re-turn they were call-ed Palm-ers, be-cause they used to car-ry a branch of a palm tree in their hands.

But Shells are not on-ly pret-ty as or-na-ments, for ma-ny of them are use-ful. In some coun-tries, where they have no chi-na nor me-tals, they make cups, ba-sins, spoons and knives out of them. The Shells call-ed Cow-ries are used in Af-ri-ca as mo-ney, and for this end they have a hole bored in them, that they may be put on a string in-stead of in-to a purse. You may see in the pic-ture some of the na-tives mak-ing a bar-gain with Cow-ries in-stead of coins.

The fish which live in shells are of two dif-fer-ent kinds. One kind has the shell in two parts, like the Oys-ter; and the o-ther has the shell all in one, like the Cow-ry and Whelk. Those which have their shell in two parts can-not move a-bout in the same way as the o-thers, but most of them, like Oys-ters, stick fast to a rock, from which they ne-ver move all their lives. But some few of them move with a jerk, by suddenly o-pen-ing and shut-ting the parts of their shells.

The Shells in the pic-ture are the Lim-pet, the Pe-ri-win-kle, the Whelk, the Snail, and the Cow-ry, which have the shell all in one; and the Scal-lop, the Pin-na, the Oys-ter and the Mus-cle, which have the shell in two parts.

The Pin-na has a bunch of hair, by which it hangs to the rock. This hair is as soft as silk, and is made into beau-ti-ful stock-ings and gloves.

The fish which lives in a shell some-thing like that of the Whelk, call-ed the Mu-rex, pro-duces a beau-ti-ful pur-ple dye, with which the Turks and o-ther east-ern na-tions dye their silks and cloths.

THE SEAL.

The Seal is a cu-ri-ous crea-ture, which seems to be some-thing be-tween a quad-ru-ped and a fish. It is co-ver-ed with stiff close hair, and has feet which are ve-ry much like fins. Its form you may see in the pic-ture. It has ve-ry bright ex-pres-sive eyes.

The Seal can move a-bout ve-ry well on land, though not so fast as in the wa-ter. The way in which he walks is ve-ry sin-gu-lar, for he shuf-fles a-long by means of his fore feet only. He fre-quent-ly stays a long time on the sea shore, and some-times goes in-land for some dis-tance. When I lived in Scot-land, I knew one who used to fre-quent the cot-tages on the sea shore, and was ve-ry fond of play-ing with chil-dren, though when they of-fend-ed him, he would bite them sharp-ly. He was very sa-ga-ci-ous, and some-times stole the dogs' food in in a ve-ry sly man-ner.

There are ma-ny kinds of Seals, and some are larger than o-thers. The kind which is com-mon-est in this part of Eu-rope is the Dog Seal. The

largest is the Wal-rus or Morse, which is near-ly as big as an ox, and has tusks like the e-le-phant. You can see both kinds in the pic-ture.

The Sea Lion is a large kind of Seal, which has long hair round the neck some-thing like the mane of a li-on. He is a fierce crea-ture, and oft-en kills those who at-tack him.

The flesh of Seals is eat-en by some poor and sa-vage peo-ple, but it is not plea-sant to the taste. Un-der the skin there is a coat-ing of blub-ber, like that of the whale, and out of this oil is ob-tain-ed.

The skin is ve-ry thick, and makes good lea-ther. It is used by the Green-land-ers for co-ver-ing their ca-noes, be-ing strain-ed o-ver a light frame of wood work.

The fur call-ed Seals' fur, out of which caps and coats are some-times made, is the soft fur of the Seal that grows un-der the stiff bris-tles, which are pull-ed out with tweez-ers. The teeth of the Wal-rus are beau-ti-ful i-vo-ry, and ar-ti-fi-cial teeth are made from them. His skin is al-so used for mak-ing glue, but glue is more fre-quent-ly ob-tain-ed from the feet of sheep.