

Through the care of the Duke of Ferrara, Fründsberg recovered sufficiently to be able to join the army, and be present at the siege of Lodi in the following spring. The death of his son Melchior, however, who with thousands of his countrymen had perished at the sack of Rome, preyed heavily on his mind; and he had just sufficient strength to reach his castle of Mindelheim before breathing forth his spirit to Him who gave it. He died on the 28th of August, 1528.

Fründsberg, as we have said, has been compared by his countrymen to the knight *sans peur et sans reproche*. No comparison, we think, could well be more unfortunate. Possessed of far higher military qualities than the fearless Frenchman, mild, honest, and simple as a child, it may nevertheless be said of Fründsberg, what cannot be said of Bayard, that the last campaign of his life was the only one to

which he was prompted by no mere mercenary motives. He fought, bled, and almost died, in a cause to which no feeling of patriotism, or sense of honour attached him. But Bayard, both in word and deed, was the perfect incarnation of that chivalric principle which, however we may condemn the blind idolatry with which so many still regard it, has remained through many ages an incitement to good and a defence against evil, which is still a great constituent of our social being, and which has formed one of the most powerful elements in the development of modern civilisation. Therefore it is that, while the name of Bayard still "finds an echo wherever the spirit of chivalry has penetrated," that of Fründsberg is scarcely known but to the few who have spent their days and their nights in ransacking the endless records of German history.

THE SCOTTISH FISHERY BOARD.

THE capture and cure of the herring is now the largest, in point of extent, of all our fisheries, and with the single exception of agriculture, the most valuable branch of our productive industry. As an article of food, the herring is at once a welcome visitor to the table of the rich and the humbler board of the poor. Exported to foreign countries, it has proved an increasing source of wealth to the nation; but its chief value undoubtedly is in the means of employment and subsistence which it affords to many thousands of our poorer population, rearing a hardy and enterprising race of seamen, who in time of peace are usefully employed in adding to the industry of the country, and in time of war supply our fleets with able and experienced sailors. These advantages, so well understood at the present day, appear to have escaped the attention of the legislature and the country until a comparatively recent period. For more than a century prior to 1749, the herring fishery on our coasts was in the hands of the Dutch, then our great commercial rivals. The extent to which they availed themselves of this permission, may be estimated from the fact that, at one time, no fewer than 1,600 busses, or herring vessels were despatched to our shores, and so great has been the wealth derived from these fisheries, that it mainly contributed to the maritime greatness of Holland, and it has long passed into proverb with the Hollanders, that the city of Amsterdam was founded on herring bones. It is difficult at the present day to account for the supineness of the nation in regard to its coast fisheries at that time, or to reconcile this state of things with the energy and enterprise of the British people. It may be accounted for, partly, by the fact that the Dutch had acquired a footing in the trade, and the art and mystery of curing herrings in such perfection as, even at the present

day, to maintain their superiority in the markets of Europe.

In the year 1749, the attention of Parliament was directed to the subject, in a speech from the Throne; and a Committee of the House of Commons having recommended a vigorous effort to explore and cultivate this hitherto neglected field of industry, a corporation was formed, called "The Society of the Free British Fishery," with a subscribed capital of half a million. The Prince of Wales was appointed Governor, and men of the highest rank and fortune enrolled themselves as patrons and supporters of the new Society. A remission was obtained of the duties on salt, and an extravagant tonnage bounty was offered to each buss fitted out for the deep sea fishery. But the Society defeated its own objects and hastened its own destruction by the very lavishness of its encouragement, for the bounty became, in course of time, a much more eager object of pursuit than the fish, and vessels were fitted out, of the requisite size and tonnage, with no other purpose than to "catch the bounty." In 1759, the incredible sum of £159 7s. 6d. was paid as bounty for each barrel of herrings produced, an article which at the present time may be purchased for twenty shillings.

In 1786, another Society was formed, which would have shared the fate of its predecessor, had it not turned its resources to the more useful purpose of purchasing lands, erecting harbours, and granting fens, or lots of ground, on advantageous terms to the fishermen, and others engaged in prosecuting the fisheries. This Society still survives in the present "British Society for Extending the Fisheries and Improving the Sea Coast of the Kingdom," and for more than half a century it has occupied itself with forming harbours and settlements, on different parts of our coasts, and

otherwise contributing to the extension of the fisheries in those remote districts of the highlands, where, without such encouragement, they would never have arisen, and where the population, if left to themselves, would have lingered on for years, in idleness and destitution.

In 1808, an Act of Parliament established the present Board of Fisheries, consisting of commissioners appointed by Government, with a secretary, inspectors, and clerks, having an official establishment in Edinburgh. The commissioners exercise superintendence over all matters connected with the fishery, appoint officers at the different stations to regulate the size of barrels, the gutting and packing of herrings, and to affix the official brand to such as are properly cured. The Board also undertake the statistics of the trade, and exercise a police superintendence at the different fishing stations, by means of the Fishery cutter, aided by one or two steamers, despatched by the Admiralty. The result of the catch of herrings for the year, and other matters of general or local interest, are embodied in full and elaborate reports, which the Board are required annually to lay before Parliament.

There can be no doubt that the establishment of such a Board at the present day would be at variance with the principles of Free-trade; but fifty years ago the Parliament and the country were pledged to the policy of Protection. It was natural, therefore, that they should come forward in the character of Protectionists to shield our fisheries in their formidable struggle with the Dutch, who had already driven from the field, or rather from the ocean, many enterprising individuals, as well as companies, who had attempted in vain to compete with them in the continental markets. Notwithstanding its protective tendency, the course which the Government adopted on this occasion was well fitted to accomplish its objects, and it is doubtful if our fisheries could ever have been what they now are, if they had not thus early been placed under the wise superintendence of the Board.

The Government resolved also to encourage the trade by means of bounties. This system, when applied under the form of a tonnage bounty, had proved a decided failure, and it was therefore proposed to adopt the more rational plan of offering the bounty for each barrel of herrings cured. From 1809 to 1815 the bounty on herrings cured and gutted was 2s. per barrel, with a farther bounty of 2s. 8d. payable by the excise on each barrel exported, whether cured gutted or ungutted. During the eleven succeeding years, from 1815 to 1826, the bounty was fixed at 4s. per barrel, but in the latter year it was resolved to discontinue the system by an annual decrease of 1s. per barrel, until the 5th of April, 1830, when the bounty ceased altogether.

These measures had the desired effect. The superintendence of the Board and its officers led to a better system of curing, and to great improvement in the boats, nets, and other machinery for

the capture of fish. The large premium offered by the bounty, amounting to nearly twenty per cent. on the value of cured fish, was felt as a useful stimulus to capital and industry. From the statistical returns, it appears that the total quantity cured, branded, and exported during each of the following years, was:—

	Cured.	Brands.	Exports.
1810 ...	90,185 ...	34,701 ...	35,848
1820 ...	352,491 ...	309,700 ...	253,516
1830 ...	329,657 ...	218,418 ...	181,064

Thus, in the first decennial period, the increase in the quantity cured is considerably more than four-fold. Brands and exports exhibit a still larger increase, the former being nine times, and the latter eight times greater than the quantity cured and branded in 1810. In 1820, the trade appears to have reached a magnitude which may be regarded as the turning point of the bounty, when it ceased to operate advantageously, and had fulfilled its mission. Accordingly, during the next ten years, we do not find any similar growth in the trade, but, on the contrary, it continued nearly stationary. In 1830, the bounty was finally withdrawn, after having done some good in developing the great resources of the fisheries. The tonnage bounty was bad in principle, serving only as a premium to dishonesty and fraud, but the bounty on the barrel provided a salutary stimulus to the trade in those days, when it was too feeble to stand alone.

Since the abolition of the bounty, the herring fisheries appear to have advanced with renewed vigour. The capital employed in the trade at the present time amounts to nearly three millions. The exports to foreign countries have shown a large annual increase, and although both our West India and Irish markets have given way, their failure will be counterbalanced, it is hoped, by the opening up of other continental markets to British herrings. The increased facilities afforded by railways have also powerfully affected the home trade, of the extent of which some idea may be gathered from the fact, that the imports of London alone, are calculated at 250,000 barrels of fresh herrings and 100,000 of red.* In proportion with this increase of the trade, both at home and abroad, has been the increased employment afforded to the poorest of our population. At the present time there cannot be less than 70,000 people engaged in prosecuting these fisheries in Scotland alone, including in this number about 40,000 hardy and enterprising seamen.

A glance at the statistical returns since 1830 will enable us to see very clearly the progress of the trade. Taking the returns for each period of ten years, and for the year 1855, we have—

* This statement of the London imports is taken from Mayhew's work, on "London Labour and London Poor," quoted in the last edition of the "Encyclopedia Britannica," by Mr. Wilson in his article on the Fisheries. The numbers seem to be over estimated, especially if we take into account the enormous addition of herrings in bulk, estimated at nearly five times the amount of that quoted above.

	Cured.	Branded.	Exported.
1830 ...	329,567 ...	218,418 ...	181,654
1840 ...	543,945 ...	152,231 ...	253,522
1850 ...	770,698 ...	213,286 ...	340,256
1854 ...	636,562 ...	211,544 ...	361,696
1855 ...	705,109 ...	280,272 ...	438,360

Since 1830, therefore, there has been a marked increase in the trade, the quantity cured and exported last year being more than double that of 1830. It will be observed, however, that in those entered for the official brand, there is no corresponding increase. On the contrary, the returns since 1810 show that the brand was more largely resorted to between 1819 and 1831 than at any subsequent period, the actual number branded in those years being absolutely greater than at any later periods, notwithstanding the increased produce of the fisheries.

In the year 1848, the attention of Government was directed to the fisheries, and in the autumn and winter of that year, an elaborate inquiry was made by Mr. Shaw Lefevre, under the directions of the Treasury, into the administration and expenditure of the Board, and the state and prospects of the trade in the northern part of the kingdom. The result of that investigation is contained in an able report which has been recently reprinted on the order of the House of Commons.* The Treasury, on the recommendations of the report, agreed to continue the system on its present footing, with some alterations of an economical nature, rendered necessary to lessen the expenditure of the Board. Mr. Lefevre's attention was primarily given to the Crown brand, as that on which the whole system depended; and his opinion may be learned from a paragraph which we quote from the report:—

After giving my best attention to the facts and considerations on both sides of the question, I deem it my duty to state that, if the question of continuing the brand related only to the home trade in white herrings, there appears to me not to be adequate grounds for supporting it; but as respects the foreign trade, which is sufficiently large to be an object of the highest importance to Scotland, the branding system forms so essential a part of the arrangements, its abandonment might cause such derangement and contraction of that trade, and consequent loss and inconvenience to those engaged in it, and to the large bodies of the working classes employed, not only in fishing, but in the various operations of curing for the European market, that I feel compelled, notwithstanding the objection in principle to which it is liable, to recommend that it should still be maintained, and as a necessary consequence, that the establishment of the east coast fishery officers should be continued.

I am disposed to think, however, that it may be worthy of consideration whether it may not be advisable to charge a small fee or duty upon the branding of each barrel. This would throw a portion of the expense of the establishment on those who immediately benefit by it, and would thus lessen what is in effect a bounty on the export white herring trade at the expense of the other classes of the community. It would likewise encourage the enterprising curer to rely on his own brand, as the saving of his fee or duty might counteract the disadvantage of his contending against the Government brand.

* Parliamentary Return on the Scottish Fishery Board, ordered by the House of Commons, on the motion of Mr. George Duff and Mr. Edward Ellice, M.P.

Whilst advocating the continuance of the Board, Mr. Lefevre shows that he is fully alive to the unsoundness, in point of principle, which lies at its root. It was expedient and desirable, and so forth, that the Board should remain. There were facts and considerations in favour of the existing system which could not be overlooked; but the honourable gentleman felt that there was also something not quite satisfactory in the constitution of the Board, resting, as it did, on the questionable basis of protection.

For some years after this inquiry, we do not find any particular mention of the Scottish Fisheries beyond the issuing of the annual reports of the Board; but during last session of Parliament, the whole question was opened up in a debate in the vote for the annual grant to the Scottish Board. The tone of the Treasury Bench on this occasion indicated that something was "looming" in the distance. Lord Palmerston wished the matter to be taken to *avizandum* until the next meeting of the House, and the result of that reconsideration is the Treasury Minute passed on the 18th December last. "My Lords are of opinion," says this important document, "that the time has now arrived when the fishery trade may be entirely thrown open, and the artificial system created by the brand of the Fishery Board may be abolished, substituting for it the sounder system already adopted with regard to all other articles of trade, including the fisheries of Ireland."

The Treasury boldly grapple with the question at issue, as one of principle, taking up a position somewhat similar to that of Lord John Russell, in his celebrated Edinburgh letter, on the duties on corn. To this document the Board have replied in an official statement of great length, and drawn up with much ability. It is not necessary to enter into their defence, farther than to say that it recapitulates much of what has already been said by Mr. Lefevre, appeals to that gentleman's testimony in favour of the present system, and disposes of the question on what may be termed a *pilatio principio*, assuming as a fact, what cannot be demonstrated *a priori*, that the "national fisheries," to use their own words, "would be imperilled, perhaps ruined, by the Treasury minute," abolishing the Board. Of a similar tendency are the memorials and petitions transmitted to the Treasury from various quarters in Scotland, and even from the herring merchants in Stettin.

In consequence of these representations, the Government have felt it their duty to modify those resolutions, and to fall back on the suggestion of Mr. Lefevre, of enacting a small fee for the use of the brand. With this view, they propose a levy of 1s. per barrel, or about 5 per cent., on the herrings receiving the official brand, which it is calculated would not meet the expenses of the Board. The Treasury have thus put it in the option of the trade to say whether they will accept the Board on this condition. In other words, they have resolved to test the utility of the brand by the value

put upon it, by those who demand its continuance; for if the brand is not worth the money to the dealer, it must be an infinitely worse bargain for the Government. This appears to be a fair criterion, if the stipulated per centage is no more than is required for the maintenance of the brand, as distinguished from the other functions of the Board; but there is some reason to fear that the Treasury are disposed to saddle the trade with the whole expense of the Board, including the cost of statistics and police superintendence, which, properly speaking, are national duties, devolving upon Government, and not upon the producer, or consumer of British herrings. It seems perfectly fair, however, that this imposition, whatever its amount, should fall on the foreign dealer, in return for the advantage and convenience of the brand in the continental market; and we find it stated in some correspondence from Stettin, that the Prussian merchants are disposed to take this burden on themselves, even to the extent of the 1s. fee, proposed by the Treasury. The British crown brand is in fact a *bonus* to the German dealer, and indirectly, though not in name, partakes of the nature of a bounty, the benefit of which, instead of going into the pocket of the curer, as the former bounties did, passes into that of the foreign merchant, or consumer.

The duties devolving on the Board in relation to the fisheries, may be considered under the three-fold divisions of police, statistics, and the brand. As regards the two former, it is clear that they are duties of a national character, and ought to be maintained at the expense of the State. The official brand is in a different position, and its retention is demanded, not so much on the ground of its being a national duty, as of its great utility in the export trade. The German dealers, who are the most extensive purchasers of British herrings, allege that the brand is a *sine qua non*, without which they could not effect a ready sale of the article in the interior of Germany. There, the British crown brand is looked upon with the utmost confidence, and answers all the purposes of a travelling passport, saving a vast deal of trouble to all parties. Remove the brand, and every barrel of herrings must be opened and examined, to satisfy the buyer that it is genuine, and contains the requisite number of properly cured herrings. As evidences of this utility, they point to the yearly increasing export to the Prussian ports of the Baltic, the high reputation of British, and particularly Scotch, cured fish, and the inferiority of the Norwegian herrings, which are not cured under the superintendence of Government. On the other hand, the abolitionists contend that the brand is objectionable in point of principle, as it imposes a tax on the nation for a purpose which is not national. Why, it is said, should one man pay for looking after another man's business? Why should the fish-curer have his barrels regulated, his fish properly cured, and his German customers saved a world of trouble, at the expense of the nation?

Or if this is the proper function of Government, why not extend it to other trades—the brewer, the ham curer, the tea merchant—in fact to every man whose goods are protected by any inclosure, whether of box or barrel? The German dealer, whose opinions are so often cited in favour of the brand, has, it is further said, a personal interest in the matter, and in his native Prussia is accustomed to Government interference in the most trifling details of daily life. It is objected, also, that, practically, the brand operates as a check on the farther progress of the cure, enforcing a mediocre standard, beyond which no curer has any interest to advance. If his herrings are better cured than the Board require, it is so much labour thrown away, and accordingly he cures up to the branding mark, and no further.

We have stated in substance some of the principal arguments for and against the retention of the Board, and we need scarcely add that a difference of opinion prevails amongst those most directly interested in the trade, the larger number being favourable to the continuance of the Board and the brand, whilst a respectable minority are opposed to the existing state of things, and would prefer being relieved altogether from the interference of Government. Looking at both sides of the question, we confess we are unable to see any valid reasons in favour of the principle of the brand. We do not anticipate from its abolition any such disastrous results to our foreign trade, as those stated by the commissioners in their reply to the Treasury minute. That some little inconveniences may arise, that a partial derangement of the export market may ensue, are circumstances which need not surprise any one; but we do not believe, any more than we did in 1844, when the Corn-laws were repealed, that changes such as these are permanently injurious to any branch of our trade.

The statistics of the trade do not bear out the assertion that the brand is indispensable in the foreign market. On referring to the details furnished by the Board, and taking the returns for the last sixteen years—namely, for the eight years prior to Mr. Lefevre's investigation, and the eight years from 1847 to 1855, as contrasted to the former period, we have the following results:—

	Per cent.
On the gross cure an increase during the last eight years of 650,116 barrels, or	15.1
On exports to the continent, in proportion to the gross cure, 665,000 barrels, or... ..	56.3
On exports to the continent of gutted cure in proportion to the gutted cured, 726,000 barrels, or	64.8
On branded herrings in proportion to the gross cure, 192,000 barrels, or	13.2
On branded herrings in proportion to the gutted cure 267,000 barrels, or	19.3
On branded herrings in proportion to the gross exports 131,000 barrels, or	8.6

From this statement, which the Board have selected as the basis of their calculations, and which we present in the form adopted by them, it appears that while the gross cure during the eight

years, ending in 1855, has increased at the rate of 15 per cent., the exports during the same period have risen to 60 per cent.; but the brands exhibit an increase of only 13 per cent., as compared with the eight years prior to 1847. This indicates a large export of unbranded herrings, and proves, what is well known in the trade, that herrings are sent to the continental markets without any other brand than the name of the curer, and find a ready market.

But the brand being itself only a conventional symbol, may we not ask why it should not be superseded by one more convenient, and less expensive? "The brands of private houses in the foreign markets," says the Treasury minute, "have succeeded to the former system, and their lordships anticipate the same result in regard to cured herrings, as soon as the brand of the Fishery Board shall have been altogether abolished." We concur in their lordships' anticipation, believing that the name of a respectable firm or corporate body would convey to the foreign dealer a sufficient guarantee of the genuineness of the barrel of herrings, and of the quality of the cure. We find no difficulty or disadvantage in trusting to "Bass and Co." for our pale ale, or "Barclay and Co." for brown stout. The cases are perfectly parallel, and afford satisfactory evidence that the best of all brands is the brand of a respectable house, implying that the article which bears their name is worthy of confidence, and that the reputation of an honourable firm is the warranty which they offer to the trade.

On the other hand, the objections to the present system are numerous and formidable. The imposition, as a tax on the public revenue, of the expense of the present branding system is opposed to the common views and practice of the country.

It is unnecessary to enlarge upon another objection of a more practical nature, namely, that the brand operates unfavourably on the quality of the cure. The Treasury and the Board appear to take opposite sides. "It appears to my Lords," says the Treasury minute, "that the plan of branding all herrings that come up to a certain standard of quality, while it may be a certain convenience to the dealers, yet, practically, has the effect of limiting improvements to such an extent as is sufficient barely to secure the government brand; there is no inducement for a fish curer to surpass his fellows in his art or trade; the government brand equalises the value of the commodity in the foreign market, though one parcel might be much better than another." "It is a mistake to suppose," replies the Board, "as is assumed in their Lordships' minute, that it presents any obstacle to improvements in the cure of herrings, for if any curer can strike out a new and superior method of curing, he is free to do so, and may trust to his own name instead of the brand." There is a sphere within which the control of the State might be legitimately and usefully exercised, and to which the attention of the Government has already

been invited. We allude to the necessity of better harbour accommodation on the north-eastern coast of Scotland. It was suggested by Mr. Wilson, of the Treasury, in the last discussion on the Civil estimates, that the grant of £14,000, if withdrawn from its present purposes, might be beneficially expended on "Schools of Design," and the Government, it appears, have recently thrown out hints of farther encouragement in the formation of these institutions. Now if we might venture a suggestion, we could name a far more worthy object than Schools of Design. If the hon. gentleman had substituted "Harbours of Refuge" for these schools, if he had come forward with a liberal proposal in behalf of that most important class of schools, where the elements of England's maritime power are being moulded and disciplined, he would have said and done something worthy of his position as a financier and a statesman. At the present time, there are in Scotland alone about 65,000 of our population directly engaged in prosecuting the herring fishery. Of this number, the larger proportion are seamen, exposed to every inclemency of the weather on our iron-bound coast, and endangering both life and limb in this perilous employment. Now, it may be asked, what has Government contributed as a permanent provision for the erection of harbours and piers on these coasts? Only the paltry sum of £3,000, included in the annual vote for the fisheries. If Mr. Wilson, in a fit of generosity, had voted the whole £14,000 for this purpose, it would not deserve the name of a liberal grant, and for the sake of the interests at stake, we would willingly see double that sum coming from the national exchequer for purposes so eminently national, humane, and useful. We take the liberty of quoting some remarks from a letter of Mr. Ellice, M.P.,* which very ably illustrate our views on this subject. The hon. gentleman, it is well known, represents a constituency deeply interested in the herring trade, and his suggestions will be listened to with more than usual respect in the high quarter to which they are addressed:—

Whatever difference (says Mr. Ellice), there may be on the subject of the brand, there is none as to the necessity of maintaining the efficiency of the fishery harbours, hitherto kept under the superintendence of the Board of Fisheries, and as to the expediency of increasing the too limited sum now devoted to that purpose.

To make the maintenance and improvement of these harbours dependent upon an annual estimate, and an uncertain vote of money to be handed over to no particular body specially intrusted with superintending the fisheries and ascertaining their wants, is obviously objectionable. In the opinion of all I have met with, conversant with the subject, such a course would be in the highest degree injurious to the interests of that large portion of the people of Scotland engaged in the Fisheries, whose means of existence depend in a great measure upon the refuge afforded by the harbours, on the otherwise unprotected coast of this country.

Without, however, now troubling your Lordship with any lengthened statement of my own, I would take the liberty of suggesting the necessity of some investigation into the possi-

* Letter to Lord Palmerston, dated January 26, 1856.

ble effect of the proposed change before it is finally decided on. If it is found that the brand can be safely dispensed with, the more important consideration still remains as to the best mode of securing the interests of the fishermen, the poorest and comparatively the most helpless of all concerned, and the propriety of giving them, in additional means of safety, the benefit of the saving made by the discontinuance of the brand.

This letter represents the general sense of the community in the northern part of the island. We trust it will meet with a worthy response from the noble lord at the head of the Government, and we are encouraged in this hope by the language of the Treasury, when they express their willingness to entertain questions relating "to the annual grant for piers, and quays, and harbours," and to recommend applications of this nature for the consideration of Parliament, in voting the annual estimates for Civil Services. If Parliament could be prevailed upon to increase these grants, and if the present Board of Fisheries were retained, for the purpose of carrying out, on a more extensive scale, a system of harbour accommodation suited to the wants of our fishermen, we do not doubt they would confer a very great boon on the population of our coasts. It is no disparagement to the Hon. Commissioners, or their officers, to say that a change in this respect might be advantageously introduced into the constitution of the Board; and we should rejoice to see that administrative ability of which they have given such ample proof, devoted to objects of higher importance than the superintendence of the cure

and packing of fish. In any reconstruction of the Board, we should wish to see its functions directed primarily to the extension and improvement of our harbours, as the first and most important desideratum in the present state of the fisheries. Secondly, to the statistical details, which have proved of great value, and for which the Treasury minute appears to have made no provision; thirdly, to such police superintendence, through its officers in the different districts, as may not come within the duties of a maritime police—which, it is presumed, will still fall to be discharged by the Admiralty; and, lastly, with regard to the official Board, if the Government is not prepared to carry out the Treasury resolution by at once abolishing the Board, it might still be administered by the officers of the fishery, on the understanding that the curer or the foreign purchaser shall pay a fair per centage for the privilege. In the present divided state of public feeling, the latter course, if it proved acceptable to the trade, would perhaps be the more advisable, and as a preparatory step to the entire abolition of the brand, at some future period, it has advantages which recommend it both to the Government and to those interested in the export of herrings. With such a modification of the present system, liberally supported by Government, and zealously carried out by the Board and its officers, our herring fisheries would indeed become, what they proved to the Dutch, the right arm of our maritime power and prosperity.

GRACE DORRIEN.

A TALE.

O you,
 Earth's tender and impassionate few!
 Take courage to entrust your love
 To Him, so named, who guards above
 Its ends, and shall fulfil,
 Breaking the narrow prayers, that may
 Befit your narrow hearts, away
 In His broad-loving will!

Elizabeth Barrett Browning.

CHAPTER V.

COMPLICATIONS.

HERE is another opportunity of testing your knowledge of human nature. How do you think the sudden apparition of Mr. Lemaire affected our friend George at this crisis? If you fancy he went up to the old man, and asked him questions about Grace, you are as wide of the mark as you would have been if you had supposed George was at first crushed by the dear girl's letter. He had just been told he was to visit at her father's house no more. Well; time works wonders; the world is wide; there is to-morrow as well as to-day; Jirch Cottage was not all the hemisphere; he had her letter to kiss when he pleased; and as he stepped

forth into the sunshine of a beautiful October morning, a passionate hope that sent the blood to his temples and turned him giddy-blind with the beatings of his heart, suggested the questions, "May she not love me? and if she does, come what may, sink or swim, live or die, what matters? If the mountain will not come to me, I must go to the mountain." In short, all the bright delirious possibilities that the incantations of young love could summon out of the vasty deep of disappointment,—and is not their name Legion?—had arisen from the folds of Grace's letter, and set up a whirligig in George's brain, the moment he breathed the open air. The silly fellow found the sunshine perfectly congenial,—just the thing, in fact, for his mood at the