

123.—MOVEMENTS OF MENHADEN—CATCH OF HERRING.

BY ISAAC H. GRANT.

[From a letter to Prof. S. F. Baird.]

I have made extensive inquiries as to the return of menhaden to this coast, and believe that, in general, there is no ground for the report, though a few have been caught at different localities. Near Bristol, Me., quite a large quantity was caught in a weir. At the mouth of Weekeag River, South Thomaston, three menhaden were caught in a herring weir, but no schools of menhaden have been seen, to my knowledge. The movements of these fish are watched here with much interest, as their departure from Maine waters has entirely changed the manner of obtaining bait. Our fishermen now depend almost entirely upon herring caught in the numerous weirs which have been built in the coves and sheltered waters along the coast. For these they pay from 40 to 60 cents per bushel. Many large hauls are obtained in these weirs, 200, 300, and often 400 bushels of herring oftentimes being taken in a night. After the fishermen have been supplied, the surplus is sold to the "sardine" factories, which have small steamers running about to collect them.

WHITE HEAD LIGHT STATION,
Spruce Head, Me., September 25, 1883.

124.—MOVEMENTS OF MACKEREL.

By S. J. MARTIN.

[From a letter to Prof. S. F. Baird.]

I have been requested by many mackerel fishermen to call attention to the statement of Capt. David Plummer, master of the ship H. S. Sanford, dated New York, August 28, 1883. He says: "On my late passage from Bath to this port, on the 23d instant, in latitude 40° 24' longitude 67° 40', just on the edge of the soundings, with a temperature of water at 70°, showing that we were within the influence of the Gulf Stream, we were for several hours surrounded by large schools of mackerel."

The fishermen are of the opinion that the large mackerel may be staying in those warm waters instead of going further north. It is of immense importance to the mackerel fishermen to know where the fish can be found. They would at once proceed to those waters if they could be confident that the fish seen by Mr. Plummer were really mackerel.

GLOUCESTER, MASS., September 1, 1883.