

ber of attempts with the same result the mate gave up the chase. The fish\* then went leisurely on his course down toward the island, and we went off another way on ours. I have often mentioned this incident to whalers who had spent years in cruising along the line, but have not met one who had seen anything similar.

I have heard of a "sail-fish," and supposed that this must have been one of that species, whatever that may be. Also, I had on board an edition of Chambers' Encyclopedia, which described the "sail-fish" as a kind of shark.

Last winter I was running to westward along the line in the Pacific and in February was at "Ocean Island," or "Paanopa," a small lone island 40 miles south of the line, in east longitude 170°.

There we were boarded by several canoes, and from one I procured parts of a fish that possibly may have been of the same kind as the one at Chatham Island. But this was some kind of a fish with a bill. Now we quite often see a kind of bill-fish, but never with such large dorsal fins as these. I imagine that this must have been a small specimen. I brought home the parts I was able to procure. The bill is twenty inches in length, cut off close to the head. I have only a part of the dorsal fin, and not in good condition. The longest spines are thirty inches long, and there is a little more than three feet of the fin. The membrane between the spines is badly torn. This membrane is quite thin. There are also two pectoral fins.

Now, this may have been quite a different fish from the one I saw first, but it struck me as being a smaller one of the same kind, and I have quite a curiosity to ascertain what is known of similar fishes.

NASHUA, N. H., *January, 1882.*

#### 51.—FITTING OUT WITH COD GILL-NETS.

By S. J. MARTIN.

[From a letter to A. H. Clark.]

Most all the Ipswich Bay fleet are getting cod gill-nets; there are ten that I know of from Gloucester. They have got some at Swampscott, some at Portsmouth. Some of them are having their nets 2 fathoms deep and 75 fathoms long; I think that is an improvement in shoal water. The nets have made a great stir here. Joe Simpson, Frank Maker, and Bill Coas, net-makers of Gloucester, are at work on cod gill-nets. Some of the vessels won't get their nets till the last of February. There are ten vessels that will average twenty-four nets to a vessel. Average length, 60 fathoms. That is for Gloucester alone.

GLOUCESTER, MASS., *January 28, 1881.*

\* Dr. T. H. Bean says of this: "It seems highly probable from Captain Barnes' description that the fish was a *Histiophorus*. The genus is found in the region referred to."—EDITOR.