

salmon, fur-seal skins, pearl shell of various sorts, cod, and shrimp products, in the order of their value.

In the table Asia includes Eastern Siberia, Japan, Batavia, and Manila. Australasia includes Australia and New Zealand; Central America includes also Panama, Mexico, and some small shipments to Peru and Brazil. Oceanica embraces Apia, Bouham Islands, Borabora, Fiji, and Tahiti.

There was hardly any specified movement in shell-fish, most of the excellent canned products being consumed at home or as ship stores. A single shipment of six cases oysters to Mexico is noted.

The total exports of the port of San Francisco by sea in 1883 were \$47,649,172; the total exports of fishery products not including whale products were about \$4,000,000, or nearly 9 per cent. of the total. It is probable that no other port of the United States can show a greater relative value of exported products due to the fishing industries.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *March 5, 1884.*

58.—IN REGARD TO THE "SEA-SERPENT" OF LITERATURE.

By Prof. SAMUEL GARMAN.

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

I have no idea that we shall ever find a huge unknown lung-breathing Saurian as a foundation for the stories. The existence of types of extinct Sauria of various geological periods is possible but improbable. The geological record is very incomplete. In the main it is the shoal water or shore and surface forms of the sea, and the land forms, that have been recorded by geology. And this record has become indistinct or entirely obliterated by changes in the rocks in the early formation. The earliest forms were marine and the depths were the original centers of divergence. The earliest forms of animals in regard to solidity were like those now living in great depths, *i. e.*, they were gelatinous, flabby, or loose in structure, and not bony and hard or such as would be preserved in the rocks. In consequence, it seems as if our hopes of solutions of problems of origin and divergence, of knowledge of the beginning itself were best placed on the results of the study of animals in conditions most similar to those of the beginning, on the results of deep-sea researches. Within a few years our imperfect apparatus has secured from great depths a host of strange creatures, but none of the largest or strongest. In fact, we have had scarcely more than mere suggestions of what may exist, and, in view of them, should not be surprised at anything that may come up. If there is a "sea-serpent" yet unknown to scientists, it is likely to prove a deep-sea fish or Selachian.

CAMBRIDGE, MASS., *January, 22, 1884.*