

## 5.—MOVEMENTS OF MACKEREL IN WINTER.

By J. W. COLLINS.

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

Capt. Wm. Dempsey told me last night that last January he saw heavy schools of mackerel 70 to 75 miles southeast of the southeast part of George's Bank. He was driven off the bank in a gale, and when the weather moderated the fish "showed up." He saw them in the afternoon and at night. A fisherman of Captain Dempsey's experience could scarcely be mistaken as to the kind of fish he saw; more especially as he told me they "rushed" repeatedly, a habit of mackerel, when schooling, that I think no other fish has.

GLOUCESTER, MASS., *October 8, 1883.*

## 6.—A LARGE SQUID.

By J. W. COLLINS.

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

Yesterday, while in conversation with Capt. Charles A. Keene, of this port, I obtained from him the following statement relative to one of the big squid that was found on the Grand Bank. The squid seen and secured by Captain Keene and his crew was much larger than any that I have previously heard of. But his statements are very positive and precise as to its length. The information which he furnishes seems to be of more than ordinary importance, since it enables us to form more accurate estimates of the maximum growth attained by these great "devil fish."

Captain Keene states that, in September, 1876, when fishing on the Grand Bank, in latitude 44° north, longitude 50° west (approximately), he found floating at the surface near his vessel one of the large squid, the body of which, measured as accurately as it could be from a dory, was 50 feet long, while the tentacles, all of which were intact and uninjured, were longer than the body, making the entire length more than 100 feet. The tentacles were larger around than the body of a stout man. He cut the squid up and boated aboard three dory loads, probably about 3 tons weight, and he estimates that there was at least one to two more boat-loads which he left to drift away.

I had previously heard of fishermen finding pieces of tentacles, &c., which might belong to animals nearly or quite as large as the one above mentioned, but I have never before met with any one who has had the fortune to see entire such a king of the mollusks.

GLOUCESTER, MASS., *November 20, 1883.*