

Captain Drevar's narrative of a long-necked sea-monster which captured in its folds and took down a sperm whale was a little exaggerated, though he and his mates swore to the truth of the story before a magistrate, and he himself was most unfairly punished by his employers for telling what he had seen: he was, in fact, ruined for life. ("I would not tell about it," said an old salt to Captain Drevar, "if I saw five hundred sea-sarpints.") But I no more believe that these men would have invented such an animal if they could, or could have invented it if they would, than I believe that an utterly ignorant man could have devised the famous lunar hoax—the clever story respecting a powerful telescope showing living creatures in the moon. Yet that story did not, as was alleged, take in Arago; no one acquainted with optical laws could have been deceived by it for an instant. To imagine that sailors could accomplish the far more difficult feat of inventing a new kind of animal without immediately exposing their ignorance to every one acquainted with the laws of comparative anatomy, is to imagine the impossible.

112.—PROPOSED REMOVAL OF FISH-TRAPS FROM COLUMBIA RIVER.

By AUG. C. KINNEY.

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

The State of Oregon has petitioned Congress to have the fish-traps here removed. A petition will be forwarded to-day by citizens of this place asking the Secretary of War to do this. The State of Oregon has not the right to remove them. There is no doubt that these fish-traps, projecting out into the channel as they do, have caused the loss of the lives of many fishermen who were fishing by the ordinary means of gill-nets, and that they obstruct navigation very greatly. I hope, therefore, that the Secretary of War will investigate the matter immediately; and if found as stated, have them removed.

There are other considerations favoring the removal of these traps which I need hardly mention, but which should have force in causing their removal. The fish caught are mostly those that run in shallow water, near shore, and nearly "ripe," and hence unfit for food. Next, a great quantity of other fish are caught, quite a number of shad with others, which we are desirous shall remain unmolested for a few years, also a great number of "steel-heads"—a large trout.

I cannot see any other way of avoiding a bloody conflict between the fishermen and the trapmen. The fishermen are very much enraged at the loss of the lives of fishermen who are dragged into the traps with their nets.

ASTORIA, OREG., *March 25, 1885.*