

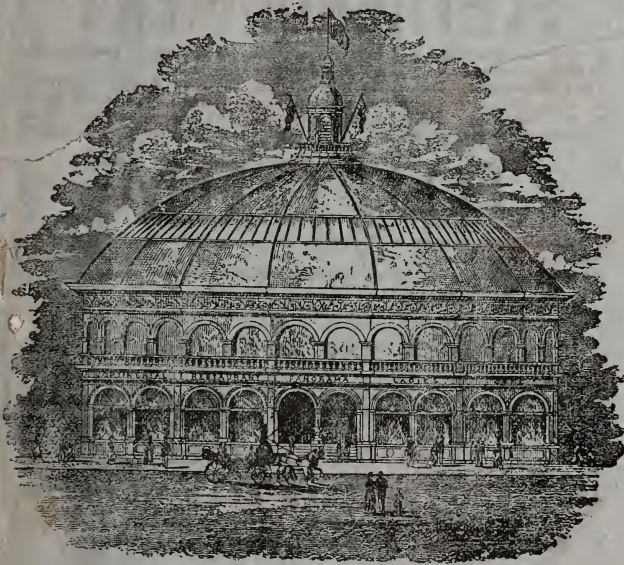
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GUIDE

— TO THE —

Great Scottish National Panorama--

“Battle of Bannockburn”



By Philipp Fleischer, of Munich.

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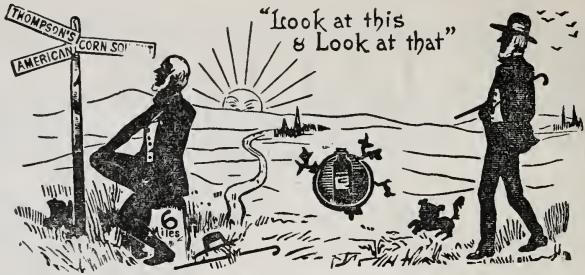
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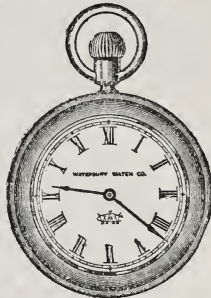
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PREFACE.

Scots, wha hae wi' Wallace bled,
Scots, wham Bruce has aften led,
Welcome to your gory bed,
Or to victory !

WHAT grander and more inspiring subject could possibly be found for the exercise of the painter's brush than the heroic struggle which suggested this immortal poem.

In order to realise this idea and carry it out in a befitting manner, a Company was formed, whose aim it has been to create a work of art of permanent historic value, a work calculated to resuscitate, as it were, the warriors of old by the aid of modern science and art.

Early last year Mr. PHILIPP FLEISCHER, of Munich, received from the SCOTTISH PANORAMA COMPANY the commission to paint the Panorama of the Battle of Bannockburn. The Artist, who was at that time residing in Edinburgh, entered forthwith upon a most diligent and searching study of the historical events relating to the glorious battle. These preparatory and theoretical labours were followed up by frequent visits to the battlefield, where he executed, on the spot, a great number of sketches of different parts of the field, and of the lovely landscape by which it is encircled.

Then began a thorough investigation regarding the costumes, armours, weapons, etc., of the period, with the view of ensuring historical truth, and a general conformity to character, time, and place. The private and public collections and libraries of Scotland, notably the Antiquarian Museum in Edinburgh, as well as the Tower of London, and the foremost Continental Museums were ransacked. From the various articles of the period preserved in these places, Mr. FLEISCHER executed hundreds of elaborate colour sketches, which were subsequently used in the composition of the Panorama picture.

The Company, in conjunction with the Artist, have been most anxious to produce a Scene which shall operate upon the mind with all the force of reality. By an artificial distribution of natural light, it wi.

seem to the spectator that he is gazing upon the real prospect, and he will, with difficulty, persuade himself that he is only contemplating a Work of Art.

It will highly interest the reader to learn that the noble descendant of Bruce, the Earl of Elgin, allowed facsimiles to be produced of the Helmet and Sword of his heroic ancestor.

A word of praise is due to Mr. Andrew Ross, Bute-pursuivant, who kindly assisted the Company by giving the Shields and Colours of the Scottish heroes and English Nobles who fought in the battle; and also to Dr. Anderson, of the Antiquarian Museum, for his great service, which enabled the artist to adhere strictly to historical truth in every detail.

The Company is also greatly indebted to Mr. Emil Clauss, of Munich—late of Glasgow—for his furtherance of their scheme, and for the following historical notes and the explanatory description of the battle picture.

The canvas was painted in the monster Studio specially erected for the purpose in Schwabing, near Munich. The plastic foreground is also the work of Mr. FLEISCHER and his experienced assistants, and was executed in Glasgow.

The final result of all these labours is now before the public. The SCOTTISH PANORAMA COMPANY confidently hope that they have succeeded in presenting not merely a grand show picture, but a great historical work of art, unique of its kind in its excellence and instructive historic fidelity, a work calculated to arouse or revive in the breast of every beholder the memories of Scotland's Heroes, and of the most glorious and momentous event in Scottish History.

A. M. THIEM, *Managing Director.*

Political Events preceding and culminating in the Battle of Bannockburn.

JUST about 600 years ago the people of Scotland, who till then had been in the enjoyment of much comfort, prosperity, and freedom, began and continued for more than a quarter of a century to be subjected to a course of trial and suffering of the most severe kind by the aggressive movements of King Edward I. of England. Encouraged and aided, it must be confessed, by the selfish and often treacherous conduct of the Scottish Nobles, the English succeeded, though at an enormous sacrifice of life and treasure, in obtaining possession of almost all places of strength in Scotland, but not in overcoming the indomitable spirit of independence of the Scottish people. During the long years of incessant warfare, the soil remained untilled, misery and famine prevailed, all domestic pursuits and trades were neglected, and even the implements of war, armour, spears, and all kinds of weapons had to be imported from Flanders or from Italy. At last, after the death of Edward I. and the accession of his son, Edward II., to the throne of England, the struggle assumes a new phase; a leader appears in the person of Robert Bruce, one of the most remarkable men of all times, and certainly the greatest captain and politician of *his* time. Tall, strong, of commanding appearance, eloquent, prudent and brave, he united in himself all the qualities the combination of which could alone accomplish the purpose of his life, the liberation of his country from English thralldom. Having been proclaimed King of Scotland, he rallied to his cause the Scottish Nobles and Clergy, and roused the exasperated peasantry to combined resistance. Soon the country was cleared of all the English not within protection of some fortress; the castles of Linlithgow, Dumfries, Dalswinton, Ayr, Lanark, Perth, Aberdeen, Edinburgh, and others were successively reconquered, while Robert's brother, Edward Bruce, took the strongholds of Rutherglen and Dundee; only Bothwell and Stirling, the latter closely invested by a Scottish army, remaining in the hands of the enemy.

In the meanwhile, King Edward II. having strengthened his position at home, resolved upon a desperate and gigantic effort to reconquer

Scotland. He summoned all the great vassals of the crown with the whole feudal force of England in arms, and the Irish chiefs with their followers; he sent for the bravest of his vassals in Gascony, and enlisted troops from Flanders and other foreign states. In Scotland he had still, sad to relate, many adherents, who, for their own selfish purposes, performed his commands, and were ready to take a place in the victorious ranks of their country's foe. A fleet was fitted out in the East Coast ports; and in the West the renegade John of Lorn, Duke of Argyll, was appointed "High Admiral of the western fleet of England." By the 10th of June, 1314, the whole English army was assembled at Berwick; it consisted of 40,000 horsemen, including knights and men-at-arms, 50,000 archers, 10,000 billmen and spearmen, and an enormous number of camp followers, transport waggons, baggage, etc. This aggregate of 100,000 has never been seriously disputed, but, making every allowance for possible exaggeration, there can be no doubt that the army thus assembled for the "final conquest of Scotland" was the most numerous and best equipped that ever, before or since, took the field on British ground.

Crossing the Tweed on June 18th, the host marched from Berwick to Edinburgh, and thence by Falkirk towards the Torwood, where lay the army of the Scots, only some 30,000 strong, but every man "trained to arms in stern misfortune's field," full of confidence in the prowess and sagacity of his heroic chief, animated by an almost savage feeling of wrath and resentment against the invaders, and determined

"TO DO OR DIE"

for his hearth, his home, and national freedom!



THE DAY BEFORE THE BATTLE.

HOSTILITIES BEGIN.

THE English King and his captains, in council of war assembled, elate with the enormous numbers at their disposal, and firmly believing that the Scottish "rangaile," or rabble, as they chose to term their opponents, neither could nor would offer any serious resistance, thought and spoke more of the manner in which they would divide the spoil and the confiscated Scotch estates than of the chances of the impending battle. They reckoned, indeed, without their host. On the other hand, Robert Bruce, the skilled, prudent strategist, matured his carefully-considered plans, and availing himself of his privilege of causing the enemy to fight him on ground most advantageous to himself, he fixed on the gentle slope of Bannockburn for his battlefield.

The position was very strong, and it could neither be outflanked nor surrounded. At the period in question, the Halbert's Bog and Milton Bog, the bottoms of which are now dry, formed one impassable swamp, with a space of firm ground lying between, about five hundred yards in width, thus offering only a narrow passage for a large army.

The ground between the Gillies Hill and the Coxet Hill was also wholly morass, while the rugged banks of the river Bannock, bordered by dense underwood, afforded few convenient spots for the passage of large and heavy masses. To these natural advantages Bruce's skill added many artificial obstacles at all points which he considered dangerous; between the two Bogs a great number of deep pits, with stakes at their bottom, were dug out and concealed by branches and grass. (Great havoc did these pits make among the English horsemen on the day of the battle.) With his right and his left wing secure, with ample scope for the movements of his own army, while leaving insufficient room to his opponents, the Scottish General steadfastly awaited the attack of the enemy, who was advancing by the main road.

At sunrise on Sunday, 23rd June, the Scottish army heard mass and prayed to the Most High for aid in the deadly strife. The large crowd of camp followers (gillies), with the baggage, were sent away up

the Gillies Hill—hence the name—where they were concealed from the view of the English. At an early hour hostilities were opened by a most daring attempt of the enemy to relieve Stirling; a party of 800 picked English horse, under Lord Clifford, dashed forward and nearly accomplished their object, but were overtaken by some 500 Spearmen—mounted infantry, it is supposed—under Randolph, Earl of Moray, and defeated after a terrible hand-to-hand fight, a striking example of Bruce's new tactics, whereby a compact body of infantry, armed with spears and axes, might resist and defeat the onset of knights and men-at-arms. This successful rehearsal may in truth be said to have been the forerunner of the great victory of the following day. The fate of the English heavy Cavalry was sealed.

Whilst this was going on, the English vanguard having approached within a short distance from Bruce, an English knight, Sir Henry Bohun, observing the Scottish King aloof from his troops, mounted on a small but active horse, spurred his charger towards him, supposing he might kill or capture him. Bruce parried the onslaught, and, standing up in his stirrups, reached his opponent such a blow with his axe that the knight, cloven to the brain, fell to the earth a dead man.

This was witnessed by both armies. Bruce was quick in following up the enormous moral effect of these feats of arms. Calling his chief men around him he spoke eloquent words of encouragement, and praised the Almighty for such a prosperous beginning, which foreboded final victory.

The enthusiasm of the army knew no bounds. At nightfall the Scots withdrew for rest and shelter to a wood in the rear. Having taken every precaution against a surprise, Robert Bruce retired to the little Kirk of St. Ninian's, where he spent a great part of the night in fervent prayer. Solemn silence reigned in the Scottish camp, disturbed only by the coarse shouts of drunken revelry wafted over from the English encampment.

THE BATTLE.

ON the morning of Monday, the 24th June, 1314, the whole Scottish Army knelt down for prayer, and, having been blessed by Maurice, Abbot of Inchaffray, and exhorted to perform their duty nobly in so righteous and glorious a cause, they went forward to occupy the position assigned to them by their King, and firmly awaited the approach of the foe. Shortly the English trumpets sounded the onset of battle, and, flanked by a multitude of archers, the van of English horse bore down upon the first Scottish line like a hurricane. The shock was tremendous, but the horsemen recoiled before the Scottish "wood of spears." Again and again the enemy rallied and charged with renewed fury, only to be again and again repulsed. The horses which were pierced, plunged and reared wildly, and their riders were either trampled upon by others or struck to death by the Scottish axes. All the while the English archers poured a shower of arrows into the dense masses of spearsmen, but, in the *mêlée*, many of their missiles pierced the undefended bodies of their own people, who, being on horseback, intercepted the flight of the deadly shafts before they reached their destination. The English forces now began to deploy, as much as their numbers and the limited space would permit, and to throw themselves on the Scottish divisions, but the redoubted Randolph, who guarded the flank, successfully repelled every attack, and, supported by Sir

Walter Steward's and Sir James Douglas' men, even gained some ground, though the onslaught of the English continued with increasing vehemence, the gaps in their ranks being instantly filled by the masses behind. Observing that the shower of arrows from the English archers made great havoc in the right wing of his army, Bruce sent forward Sir Robert Keith with 500 horsemen in steel, who, under cover of trees and brushwood, fell unawares on the bowmen and routed them so completely that in their retreat they caused confusion in the rear of their own people.

The whole Scottish army was now engaged in the terrible, bloody, hand-to-hand struggle, meeting every charge with stubborn resistance, keeping closely in line shoulder to shoulder, according to the discipline enjoined by Bruce, and only adopting a loose order of fighting when, at times, the compact formation of the English horse broke up in disorder.

This desperate fighting continued for a considerable time, when, at last the English, baffled in every attempt to break through the opposing forest of steel, hesitated, then gave way and retreated as best they could towards the Bannock, closely pressed by the Scots. At this critical moment, the Camp followers or Gillies, many thousands in number, emerged from their hiding place beyond the Gillies Hill, and, armed with poles and waving improvised banners, shouting and sounding their horns in wild clamour, marched down to the battlefield, where they picked up such weapons as they could take from the dead and wounded and joined in the pursuit of the routed enemy.

Wedged in between their pursuers and the Bannock, unable even to retreat hastily for want of space, and thrown into utter confusion by their own multitude, the English, overcome with alarm and terror, were cut down by thousands or thrown into the Bannock, whose channel was choked with bodies of men and horses.

When King Edward quitted the field the stampede became general, and would have been even more disastrous had Bruce had at his command a sufficient force of cavalry; as it was, the English, according to trustworthy accounts, lost thirty thousand men, among whom were many scions of the noblest families of England.

THE BATTLE WAS WON,
SCOTLAND WAS FREE!



THE PANORAMA.

THE artist has chosen for his picture the most critical moment of the battle, when, after the partial defeat of the English knights and men-at-arms, the centre of the Scottish army, under Randolph Earl of Moray, rushes forward to the attack, at a signal from their King and Commander-in-chief, Robert the Bruce, and by a furious and irresistible onslaught, completes the Scottish victory.

The spectator is supposed to take his standpoint on the rising ground behind what is known as the Bore-stone,* from which place Robert Bruce directs the movements of his army. His noble figure stands in prominent relief against the delicate hue of the distant height on which the Wallace Monument is seen to-day. His staff and bodyguard are posted in the rear. Nearer to the foreground his captains and their followers are assembled in semicircle, foremost of all, Sir James Douglas and the youthful Walter, the High Steward. This group, which includes Sir Robert Fleming, Sir Walter Ross, Walter de Somerville, Alexander Fraser, Robert Boyd, and other Chiefs with their banners, gives a most faithful representation of all the weapons and armour then in use in the Scottish army. Close by some soldiers are executing a war dance to the stirring tunes of the pipe.

*About a quarter of a mile beyond the village of St. Ninians, in a south-west direction, is a piece of rising ground named Caldom Hill, or Brock's Brae, on the summit of which is a flagstaff. At this spot is the Bore-Stone, or Bored Stone, a large block of trap rock with a perforated socket, which held the Standard of King Robert Bruce on the eventful 24th of June, 1314.

At the distance, the village of St. Ninians with its venerable kirk is to be seen; and further away still, Stirling Rock and Castle, the objective point of the English invasion, and the Key to Scotland.

Just below the Castle, in the foreground, a priest passes along the front of kneeling Scottish warriors, crucifix in hand, blessing their arms and exhorting them to fight for their rights and liberty. A little further to the left, the centre of the Scottish army rushes to the attack with irresistible fury, led by Randolph Earl of Moray, who is easily recognised by his red plaid. In advance of the latter's charging column, the left wing of Sir Edward Bruce's division is engaged in close fight with the enemy. A prominent figure here, on his rearing charger, is Sir Giles de Argentine, "the best knight in Europe after Bruce," says the chronicler. He falls shouting his war-cry, "An Argentine!"

In the distance, just above Argentine's horse, on the canvas, Sir Robert Keith with five hundred horsemen, armed in steel, charges the English archers in flank, putting to flight those that are not slain.

Still following to the left, far in the background, in a group distinguishable by the bright lines of banners, pennons, and trappings, King Edward II. of England watches the course of the battle, his officers urging him to leave the field, lest he might be captured.

Below the Gillies Hill, and for a considerable stretch, the fore-ground and middle are occupied by animated and powerfully effective scenes; everywhere Knights and Men-at-arms, on their steel-clad war-horses, flinging themselves against the "dense wood" of Scottish

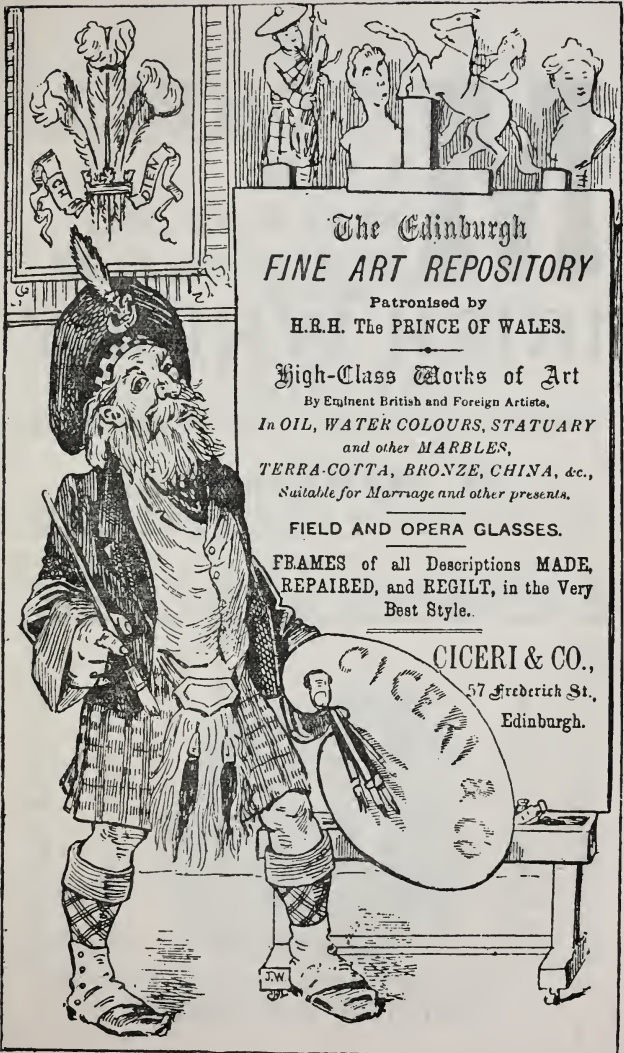
spears; wounded and riderless horses tearing athwart the field, or reeling in the treacherous pitfalls prepared for them; chevaliers unhorsed and slain or trodden under foot; banners, pennons, weapons, and helmets strewn about the field. Some horsemen in their flight have become entangled in the Milton Bog.

On the other side of the river Bannock a large number of English reserves are massed, condemned to witness the defeat of their comrades and unable to rush to the rescue, owing to the impossibility of such a multitude to cross the Bannock in time.

In striking and pleasant contrast to all this turmoil, still to the left, is a bit of charming, quiet scenery representing the Milton Bogs and Hills. Further on a number of Scottish Reserves—Highlanders posted there to frustrate, at any price, a possible attempt on the part of the enemy to turn the position by the old Roman road—are sulkily waiting for orders, evidently not pleased with the passive but most important part assigned to them. The light falls from behind on this scene, and the effect of the rays of the morning sun on the oak trees and their glittering foliage is very remarkable. Turning away from the scenes of carnage and bloody strife on this battle-piece, the eye dwells with a feeling of relief and delight on the touching picture of some Scottish women tending a wounded foe, and then wanders over the lovely, peaceful, fertile plain through which the silvery Forth wends its tortuous way until the glittering thread is lost in the mists of distance.

THE END.





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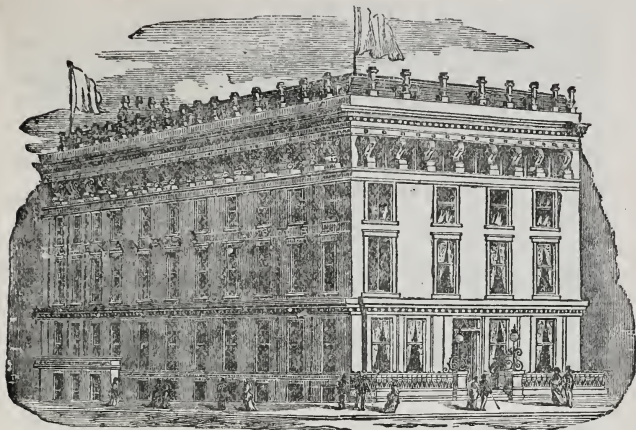
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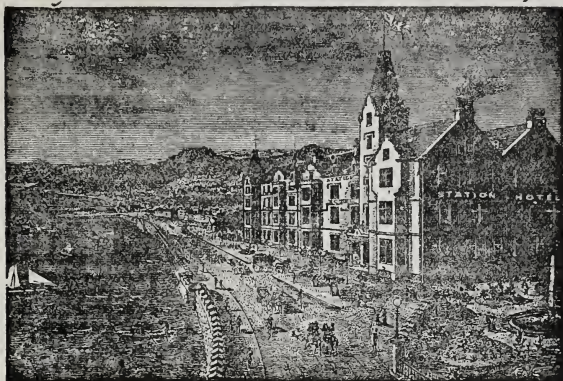
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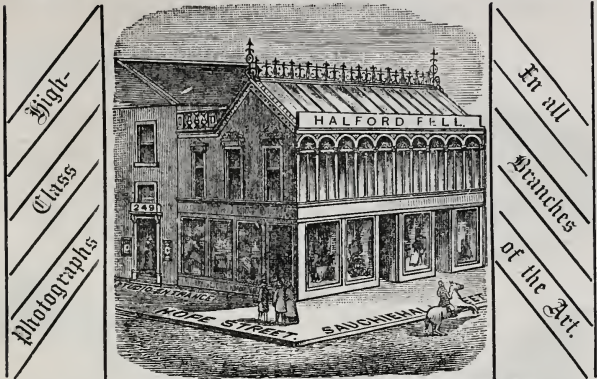
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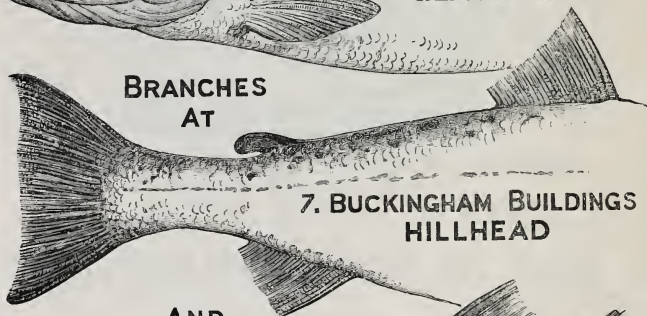
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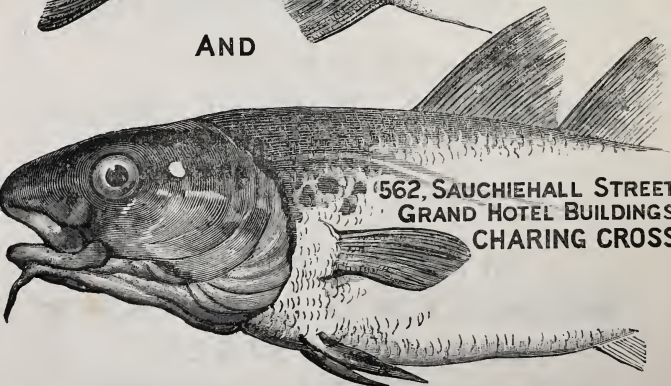
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