

DOMESTICK.

Uncommon Serpent.

YESTERDAY information was received in this town from Gloucester, of the appearance of an unusual fish or serpent in their harbour. The letter represented, that the head of it, eight feet out of water, was as large as the head of a horse, and of great length. It was afterwards said that two had been seen.—A party was soon provided to take him with muskets, harpoons, and every instrument which good marksmen and whalemén could use. We soon after received a letter informing that the fish had been seen for several days, & that it was first discovered by the fishermen. All attempts to take the fish had been ineffectual.—Quite different accounts are given of its length, which all agree to say is great, and that its body is round. That it is very quick in its motions, and in all directions. The person adds, I have just seen the fish sporting in the water, and it shews a length of 50 feet, within a quarter of a mile from the shore, and adds, we have never seen any thing like it. A man who discharged his musket within thirty feet of it, says he struck the fish, and that its head was partly white. The inhabitants were determined to repeat their attempts to take it, and a large sum had been offered for it. Another letter says, I have had an opportunity to see the fish, and the street is full of persons who are going to enjoy the sight of it. "It appears in joints like the wooden buoys on a net rope, almost as large as a barrel. Two muskets were fired at it and appeared to hit it on the head, but without effect. It immediately disappeared, and in a short time was seen a little below, but in the dark we lost sight of him. It appears like a string of gallon kegs 100 feet long."

After reading this account, we recollected one not altogether unlike it. A Danish Captain of the Navy reported that he saw in 1716, near the coast of Norway, a Sea Serpent of very great size and length. The head, which he saw out of water, had some resemblance to that of a horse, and he remarked something hanging from his neck like long black hairs. As he moved at a distance, he looked like a row of large casks, following in a right line. He moved with uncommon swiftness. We plainly see an agreement in these different accounts, & are led to believe that the fish seen at such a distance of time and place, may have been of the same kind. To what size the fish of the northern seas may grow, is not known, but Cope, comparing a fossil tooth in the family of sharks, with those known to belong to the largest known, gives the fish which must have used it, more than double the length of any fish of the family now known. We are pleased to see the excitement which the fish has made, and the determination to take it. We know no men more expert, and we hope they will be rewarded from the bounty as well as curiosity of others, if they succeed. The Danish Captain observed that the Norway fishermen were much alarmed for the safety of their boats, and one of the letters from Gloucester says, our small craft are fearful of venturing out a fishing.

Salem. Reg.