

GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY

ANGLING REVIEWS

A recall of three fine books of
interest to the angler.

KEN ANNETT

ANGLING REVIEWSFOREWORD

It is not surprising that a number of articles in this "GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY" series have dealt with various aspects of the Gaspé salmon, as the fine rivers of the Gaspesian Peninsula are internationally known among the fraternities and sororities of anglers.

The purpose of this review is to provide a brief introduction to three books from the collection of the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec that may not be familiar to anglers at large.

"THE ORIGINS OF ANGLING" recalls the first known piece of writing on sports fishing in which the origins and values of the sport are explored.

The British author, P.D. Malloch, in his "LIFE HISTORY AND HABITS OF THE SALMON, SEA-TROUT, AND OTHER FRESH-WATER FISH" shares the observations and experiences of an expert and devotee.

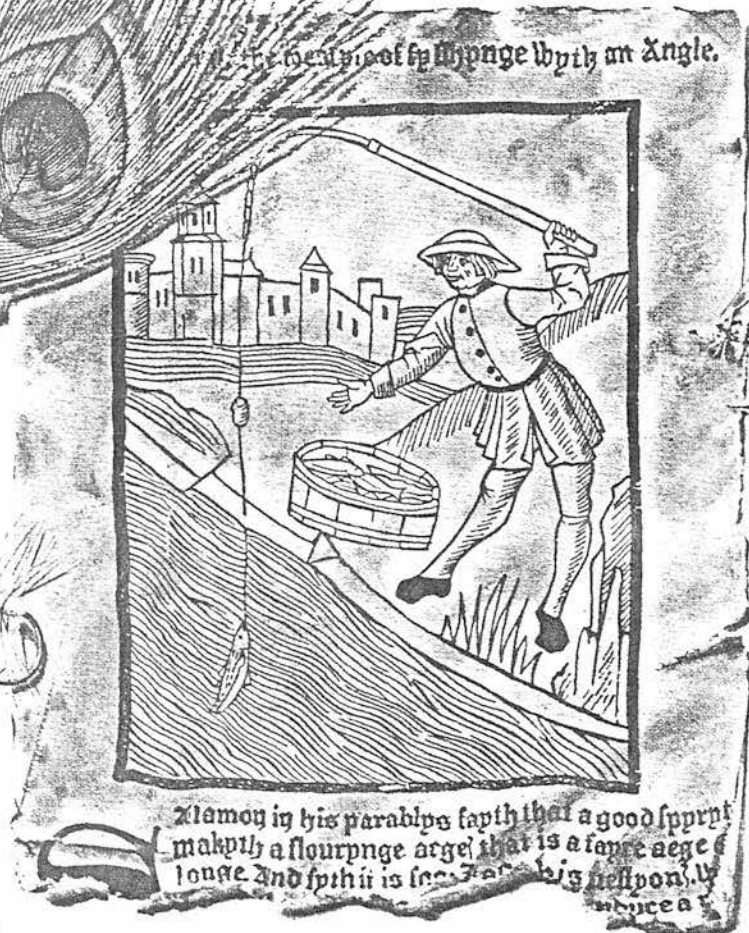
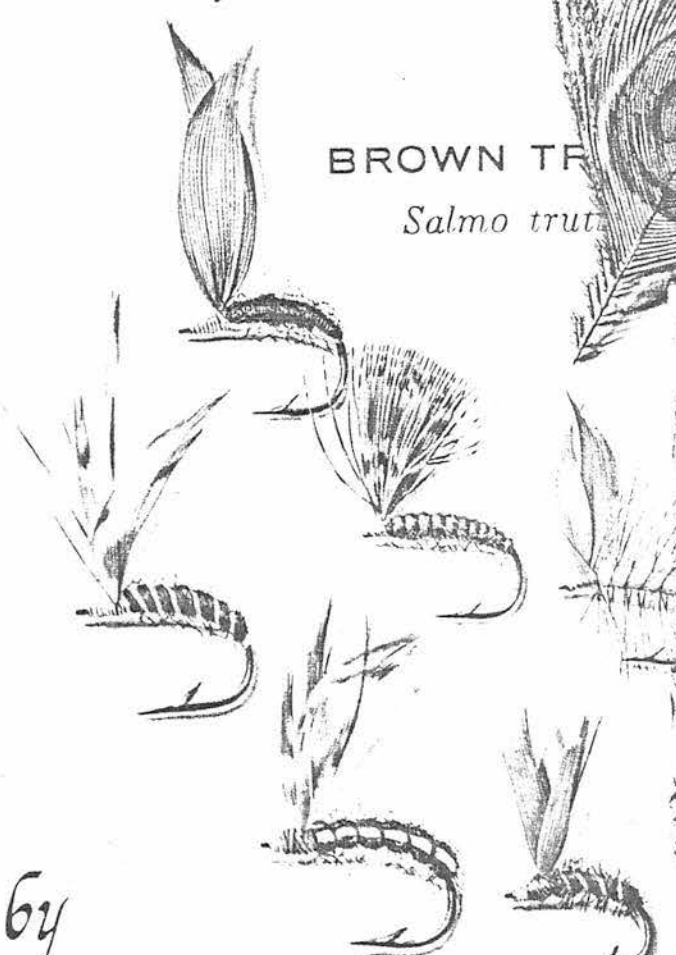
"A BOOK OF FISHING STORIES" opens vistas of experience with the provocative sentence - "Fishing stories are commonly associated by facetious folk with a measure of prevarication more seductive, it may be, than downright falsehood, but no less unmoral."

The Origins of Angling^{2.} 330

and a new printing of "The Treatise of Fishing with an Angle"



BROWN TR
Salmo trutta



The Treatise of Fishing with an Angle.

Alamoy in his parabys sayth that a good spryngt
makyth a flourpge arge that is a fayne arge
longe and syth it is fayne for bigg fishon. by
duce a

by
John McDonald assisted by Sherman Kuhn & Dwight Webster
and the editors of Sports Illustrated

THE ORIGINS OF ANGLING

An appreciation of the first known piece of writing on sport fishing-its history and its influence on the sport as it is practiced today.

Surprisingly, what is thought to be the first published essay on sport fishing - THE TREATISE OF FISHING WITH AN ANGLE - is also believed to have been written by a woman: Dame Juliana Berners, by legend a nun and a noblewoman and the first of her gender to write a work published in English. This volume attempts to solve the mystery of the sporting nun and her pioneering work, and to bring the message of the treatise itself, which remains the finest essay on angling extant, into modern idiom and sharp focus for the contemporary sportsman's appreciation.

In his discussion of this unusual manuscript, John McDonald shows how the meaning of SPORT may be found in the joining of chivalry and learning - two basic elements of the mediaeval mind - and describes how the written tradition of sport fishing comes to us, not from professional fishing, but from the tradition of hunting... an appendix containing the Prologues to MASTER OF GAME (1406) and ART OF FALCONRY (1250) shows the hunting background.

Through the centuries after Dame Juliana, Mr. McDonald demonstrates, the idea of the angler was developed until it was personified in Isaak Walton. In the years since Walton, the literature of angling has grown to its present vast dimensions, but the sport, while constantly changing in techniques, has continued to be an idealization of rule, courtesy, and learning.

Introduction

The principal justification for this book is that *The Treatise of Fishing with an Angle*, the first writing on modern sport fishing, has long been out of print. As it is the first, and as no better essay on fishing has been written, it should always be in print. For most of two centuries, the fifteenth and sixteenth, it was alone the standard work on the sport and put its stamp on all subsequent history. In the ages before the treatise almost nothing is known about the sport. Since the treatise is a dramatic historical event, seemingly coming from the blue, we have looked into a number of questions surrounding it: the origins and history of fishing and to some extent of hunting; the mystery of Dame Juliana Berners, the legendary nun and sports-woman to whom the treatise is attributed; the deciphering of the dressings for the first known modern trout flies; and other matters. Thus the treatise became the starting point for a wider review of the sport.

The treatise was first printed in the second *Book of St. Albans* in 1496. It was written about seventy-five years earlier, and one incomplete manuscript copy, made by a scribe around 1450, survives and is in possession of the Yale University Library—thanks to the late angling collector David Wagstaff, and Mrs. Wagstaff. We print both versions in facsimile, with notes on them. This is the first time that a facsimile of the manuscript has been printed. To assist in the reading of the facsimiles we have placed them on left-hand pages with the transcripts line for line on the right-hand pages. And for easy reading we have made modernized texts of each version. Here and there we have repeated a point or a fact for the convenience of the reader.

The Origins of Angling *Introduction*

To serve a wide variety of interests, we have divided the book into two parts. Part One is for the reader who has a general interest in fishing and hunting and a curiosity about the origins of the style and state of mind of sport. Part Two is for addicts of a number of things: fishing, old manuscripts, comparative texts, minutiae of various kinds, and early modern English; it may also interest students in the medieval and Renaissance fields.

Part One contains the modernized versions of both texts; a history of writing about fishing, with some observations on a relationship with hunting; the unsolved mystery of the author, involving a kind of chronicle, over centuries, of eminent antiquaries at work on a legend; and a discussion of the first modern trout flies, illustrated.

Part Two contains the facsimiles and transcripts of the *Treatise of Fishing*, a description and history of the manuscript, and a comparison of the manuscript and the printed text. Having issued a warning about the technical intricacy of Part Two, we owe the reader the tip that whoever takes the trouble to read the texts in the original with the help of the transcripts will be rewarded with a charming experience that cannot be obtained any other way.

The Appendixes contain the prologues of two hunting treatises which had a significant influence, we think, on the *Treatise of Fishing* and on the sport. They also contain some documentary material on the origin of the legend of Dame Juliana Berners.

The art of writing about sport holds to a remarkably firm line of thought for twenty-five hundred years and comes down to the present through a clear tradition, marked by one great transformation when it passed from the ancient Greeks to the writers of the Middle Ages. If there is a thesis in this book, it is that the spirit of modern sport and the art of the sporting treatise—*The Treatise of Fishing with an Angle* in particular—grew out of an interaction of two basic elements of the medieval mind, chivalry and learning. The exercise of skill and knowledge was thereby given the meaning we call sport.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This book is a collaboration. The transcripts and modernizations of *The Treatise of Fishing with an Angle* and the textual analysis and special notes on these are the work of Professor Sherman Kuhn, Editor of the *Middle English Dictionary*, University of Michigan. Professor Kuhn also contributed to the book as a whole. The trout-fly analysis for Chapter 5 and the tying of the flies for the illustrations were done by Dwight Webster, Professor of Fishery Biology at Cornell University; he also collaborated in writing that chapter. The rest of the book was written by me and the responsibility for the book as a whole is mine.

Parts of the book in somewhat different form appeared in *Sports Illustrated* in May and June, 1957. In the sense that it originated there and received the encouragement of the editors, it is a *Sports Illustrated* project. I wish especially to thank Sidney James, Richard W. Johnston, Percy Knauth, Virginia Kraft, and Richard Gangel of that magazine for their participation, and John Langley Howard for painting the treatise flies; also Don Moss for the painting on the jacket of this book.

I am indebted to the Yale University Library for making available its extraordinary resources in the field of angling, and for permission to reproduce the manuscript of *The Treatise of Fishing with an Angle*, and the first printed version in the 1496 edition of the *Book of St. Albans*. In particular I wish to thank Miss Marjorie Wynne, Librarian of the Yale Rare Book Room, for her expert assistance in the use of the collection and for her patient and willing response to many requests. The New York Public Library and The British Museum also kindly yielded their treasures. I wish to thank the Cambridge University Library (England) for its courtesy in finding and checking various things and for permission to reprint in facsimile the handwritten notes of William Burton in a copy of the *Book of St. Albans* which, it appears, once belonged to him; the Bodleian Library,

Oxford, for its many willing favors and permission to print samples of William Burton's handwriting; and Columbia University Library for permission to reprint a Latin text by John Pits; also the Stanford University Press for permission to reprint the prologue to Frederick II's *The Art of Falconry*.

I owe a great debt to Warner G. Rice, Chairman of the English Department, University of Michigan, for assistance in arrangements and for valued comment in detail on a draft of a portion of the book. A. L. Binns, the University, Hull, England, kindly read the chapter on authorship, and made helpful notes in letters and in the draft, which, like a fifteenth-century compiler, I swept into that chapter. I wish to thank Jeannette Fellheimer for research in the work of John Leland and Sir Henry Chauncy, and for comments on Chapter 4; Walter Magnusson for assistance with translations from the Latin of John Pits and Thomas Hearne; John C. McPherson for various translations from the Latin and Greek, including Sappho, and discussions about them; Gerald Eades Bentley, Louis Finkelstein, Robert La Hotan, Jane Mull, R. D. Paine, Jr., Daniel Seligman, R. W. Southern, and Lionel Trilling for reading drafts of parts of the book; William Kienbusch for finding old and scarce fishing books; and Nancy Kwok for library assistance; Mary Wilde and Richard McKelvey of the *Middle English Dictionary* for assistance on the transcripts of the treatise; also Barbara Mullen, scribe and critic; and Peggy Sweet's corporation of scribes. Along the way I had helpful talks with my old friend and fishing companion Dan Bailey and the fishermen around his Fly Shop in Livingston, Montana; and also with Joe Brooks, Dorothy McDonald, Jim Deren, Sparse Grey Hackle, and the late Jack Atherton. I want to thank William Whipple, copy editor, Anne Wrotzlau, designer, and my editor at Doubleday, Pyke Johnson, and his assistant Lynda Spence, for their interest and care in forming the book; also Jason Epstein for his original interest.

The great work on the second *Book of St. Albans* is Joseph Haslewood's facsimile edition in 150 copies (1810). My debt to his notes will be apparent in the chapter on the authorship of the *Treatise of Fishing*. Before Haslewood there was the pioneering essay on the *Book of St. Albans* by William Oldys, in a note to his piece on Caxton in *Biographia Britannica* (1748). The *Treatise of Fishing* acknowledges a debt to the hunting treatise *Master of Game*, and the connection was noticed by writers in the nineteenth century, but the first to develop the thesis that *Master of Game* is the probable model of the fishing treatise appears to be John Waller Hills in his *A History of Fly Fishing for Trout* (1920). My debt to Hills is evident in the chapter on the origins of angling; in the chapter on trout flies we go sometimes with him, sometimes against, as noted. The late Charles H. Haskins, medievalist of Harvard, made a number of valuable excursions into the field of sports; I have attempted to note my debts to him where

they occur. A transcript of the early manuscript version of the *Treatise of Fishing* was published in about four hundred copies by Thomas Satchell in London in 1883, under the title *An Older Form of the Treatyse of Fysshynge wyth an Angle*. Satchell, with the assistance of the eminent medieval scholar W. W. Skeat, produced a very good transcript which we consulted. We considered reprinting it but decided that Professor Kuhn should make a new one, owing to some advances in knowledge since Satchell's time. We made valued use of Alice Dryden's *The Art of Hunting* (1908); Wm. A. and F. Baillie-Grohman's edition of *The Master of Game* (1904 and 1909); and Casey A. Wood and F. Marjorie Fyfe's translation of Frederick II's *The Art of Falconry* (1943, reissued 1961).

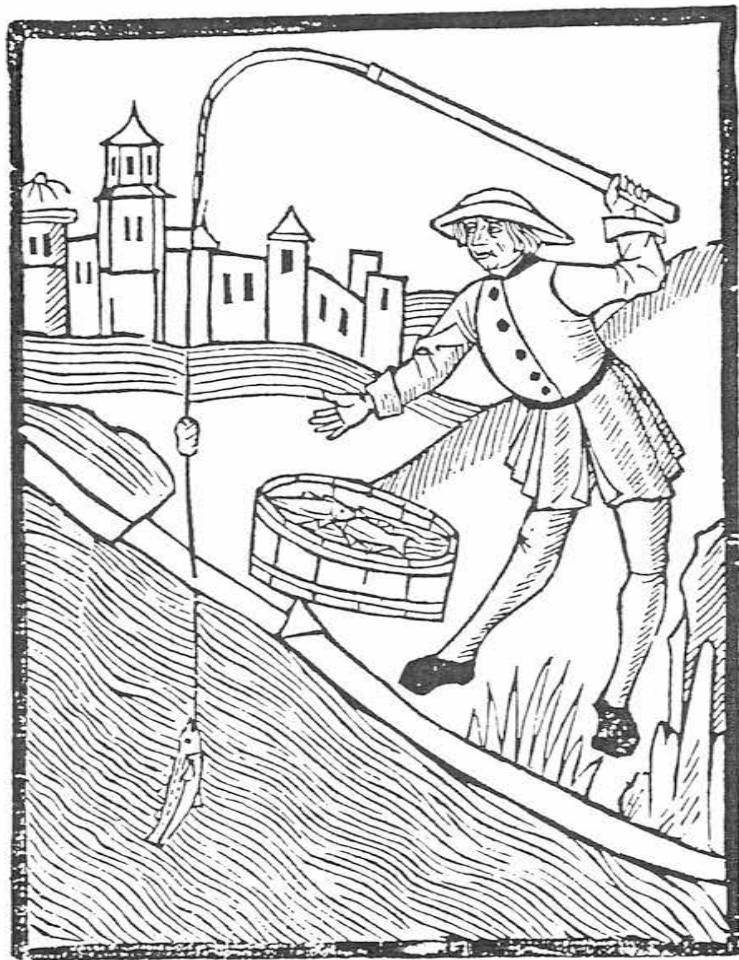
Among the historians of fishing and fishing literature consulted were George Washington Bethune (the Introduction to his edition of *The Compleat Angler*, 1847); Robert Blakey (*Angling Literature*, 1856); Osmund Lambert (*Angling Literature in England*, 1881); W. J. Turrell (*Ancient Angling Authors*, 1910); H. M. Hall (*Idylls of Fisherman*, 1912); and William Radcliffe (*Fishing from the Earliest Times*, 1921). The significance of chivalry and learning in the medieval mind is developed by R. W. Southern in *The Making of the Middle Ages*; a debt to his work will be apparent. J. Huizinga's *The Waning of the Middle Ages* provided a useful study of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries; H. S. Bennett's *Chaucer and the Fifteenth Century* a helpful survey of the period of the *Treatise of Fishing*.

John McDonald

Cranberry Island, Maine

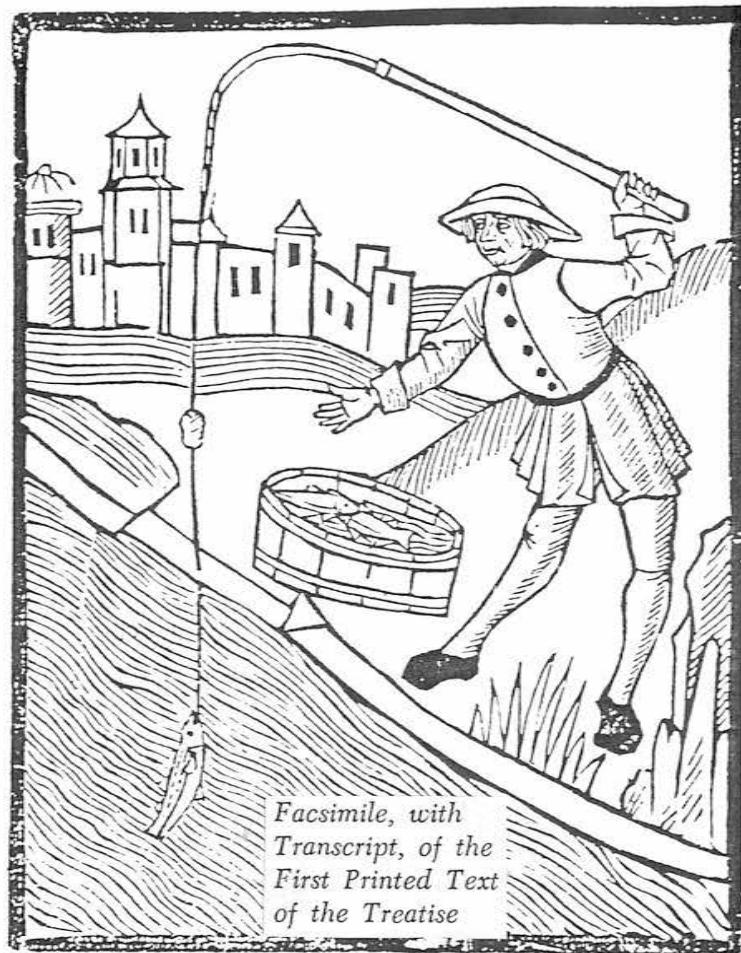
August 1962

Here begynneth the treatise of fysshynge wyth an Angle.



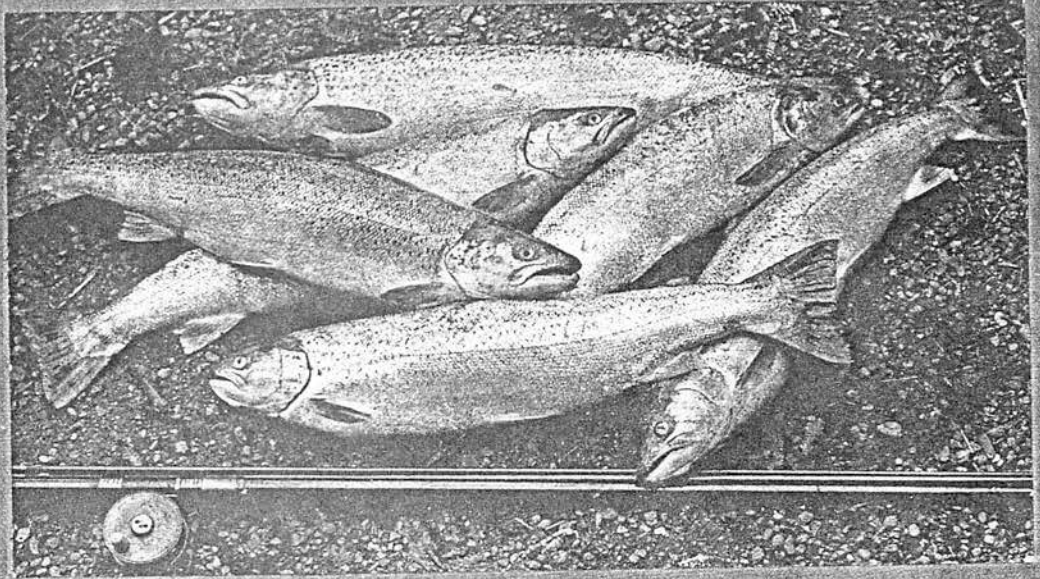
Salamon in his parables sayth that a good spyryte makyth a flourynge aege/ that is a fayre aege & a longe. And syth it is soo: I aske this questyon/, whi che ben the meanes & the causes that enduce a man in to a mery spyryte.: Truly to my beste dyscrecion it semeth good dysportes & honest gamys in whom a man Ioy eth wythout ony repentance after. Thenne folowyth it þat gode dysportes & honest games ben cause of manny's fayr aege & longe life. And therefore now wolle I chose of foure good dysportes & honeste gamys/ that is to wyte: of huntynge: hawkynge: fysshynge: & foulynge. The beste to my symple dyscrecion why che is fysshynge: callyd Anglynge wyth a rodde: and a lyne

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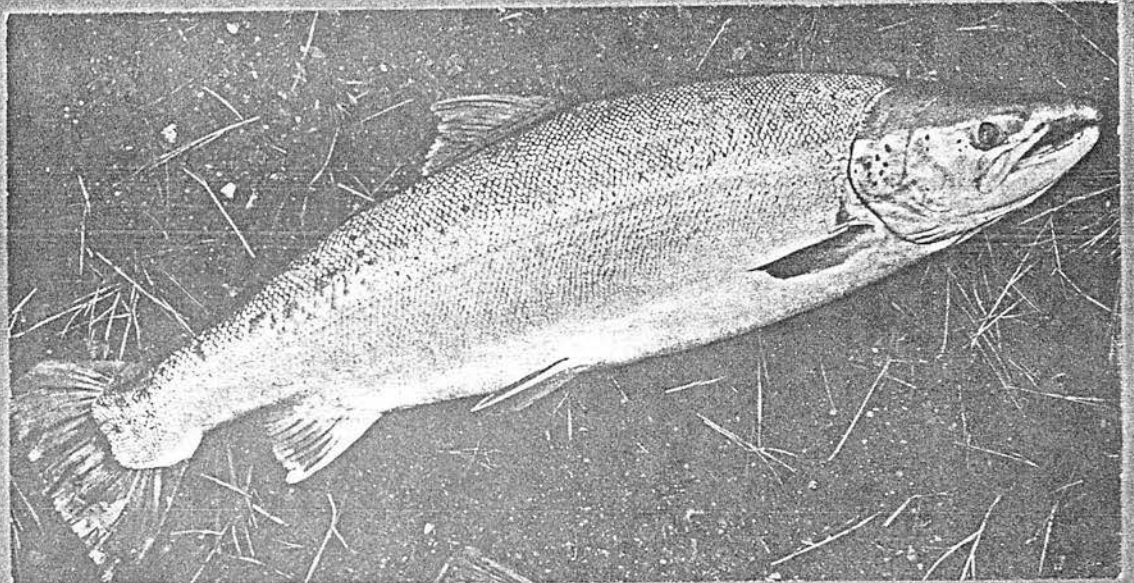
Facsimile, with Transcript, of the First Printed Text of the Treatise

Salamon in his parables sayth that a good spyryte makyth a flourynge aege/ that is a fayre aege & a longe. And syth it is soo: I aske this questyon/, whi che ben the meanes & the causes that enduce a man in to a mery spyryte.: Truly to my beste dyscrecion it semeth good dysportes & honest gamys in whom a man Ioy eth wythout ony repentance¹ after. Thenne folowyth it þat gode dysportes & honest games ben cause of manny's fayr aege & longe life. And therefore now wolle I chose of foure good dysportes & honeste gamys/ that is to wyte: of huntynge: hawkynge: fysshynge: & foulynge. The beste to my symple dyscrecion why che is fysshynge: callyd Anglynge wyth a rodde: and a lyne



LIFE HISTORY AND HABITS OF
THE SALMON SEA-TROUT AND
OTHER FRESHWATER FISH

P · D · MALLOCH



THE SALMON

(Salmo salar)

THERE are so many mysteries connected with the life-history of the salmon that it is impossible for any one individual to solve them all; but as they have been the object of my closest study for over thirty years, I trust that what I have to say may help to elucidate some of these problems.

The ova are deposited in the gravel by the female salmon during the autumn, the male fish covers them with milt, and the time required for hatching is from seventy to one hundred and twenty days, according to the temperature of the water. On emerging from the eggs the young soon begin to show signs of life, and wriggle energetically through the gravel to reach the surface: At this stage they are called "alevins," and hardly yet have the appearance of fish; for attached to their



FIG. 1.—Alevins.

bodies, a little behind the gill-opening, is a large bag, the yolk- or umbilical-sac, containing enough nutriment to sustain them for several weeks. Before, however, this is entirely absorbed, they begin to search for natural food and push energetically upstream. In a short time, after having assumed the true fish shape, they collect in shoals and are called fry. By autumn they are from two to three inches long, and are then called parr (Fig. 2). Very little feeding takes place after the end of September, and when the cold weather sets in, the parr leave the shallow water to take up their abode under stones, where they remain till March or April, and almost entirely cease to feed. During their stay in winter-quarters they become very black and fall off in condition. Often, when collecting larvæ, I have lifted a flat stone quietly and disclosed to view three or four parr. These did not swim away at first, but remained motionless for some time, apparently in a dazed, sleepy condition. When

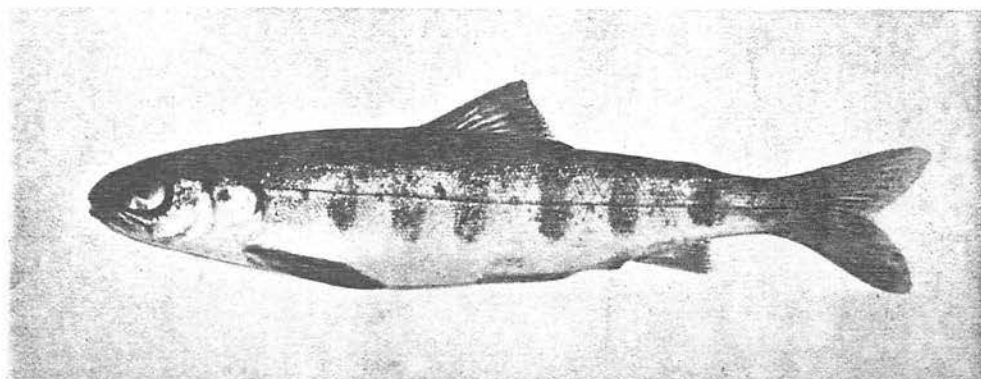


FIG. 2.—Parr, life size, one year old. 1st April 1902.

the water becomes warmer their winter abode is forsaken for the quieter pools. Strange to say, they are now smaller than they were during the autumn. As the season advances they become lively, frequent shallow water, forsake large rivers, and run up as far as the water will take them. They increase quickly in size, and by autumn are double the dimensions they were in the previous autumn. The parr is now a very handsome fish indeed. Along its silvery sides are nine bars, with black and red spots, and the tail or caudal fin is much rounder than before. During winter, again, the parr retire to their old haunts, and leave them in March and begin to feed. About the first week in April a great change takes place in their appearance; the silvery smolt dress is assumed, and the dawn of a new era begins. They become covered with silvery scales, their tails lengthen and become forked, and their fins are enlarged. This

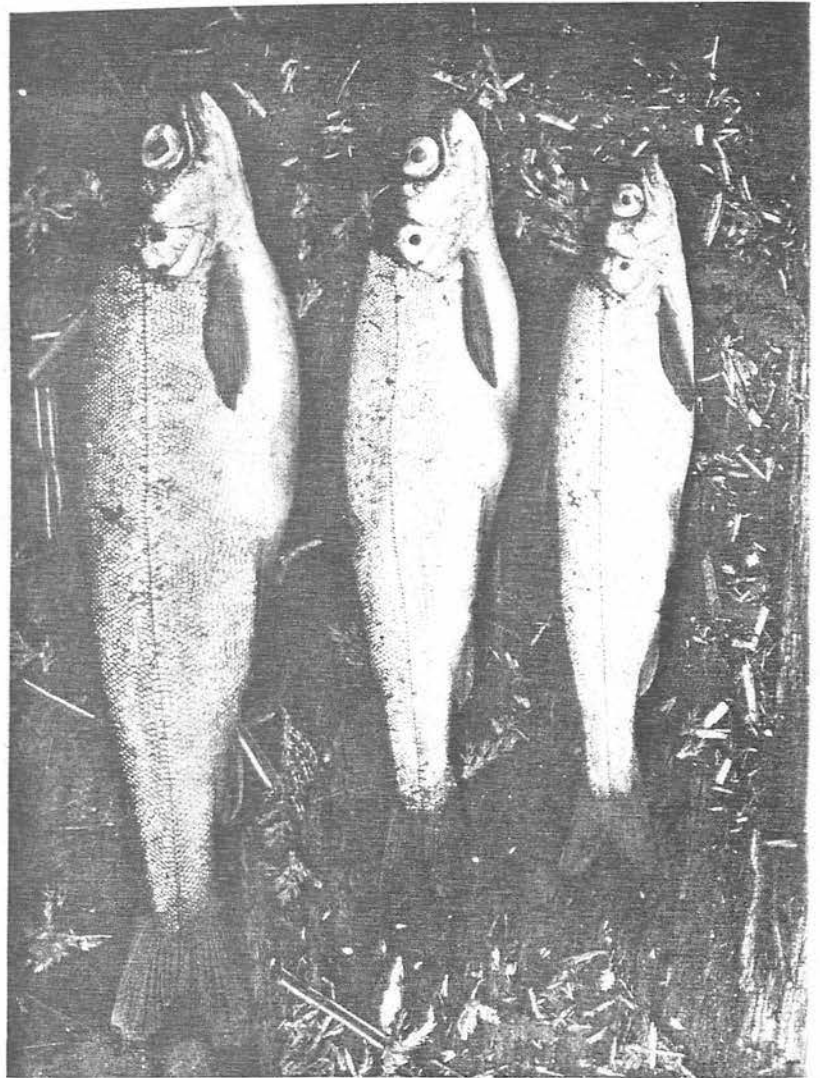


FIG. 3.—Salmon Parr, life size. River Dochart, September 1906.

change is quite a rapid one, the fish collecting in shoals during the process. As the season advances the true smolt stage is reached, and the migratory period begins. In large rivers the descent is made at any convenient time, but in small streams they can only descend during

small spates. Full advantage, however, is taken of every little freshet, and on arrival in tidal water they disappear into the sea. At the

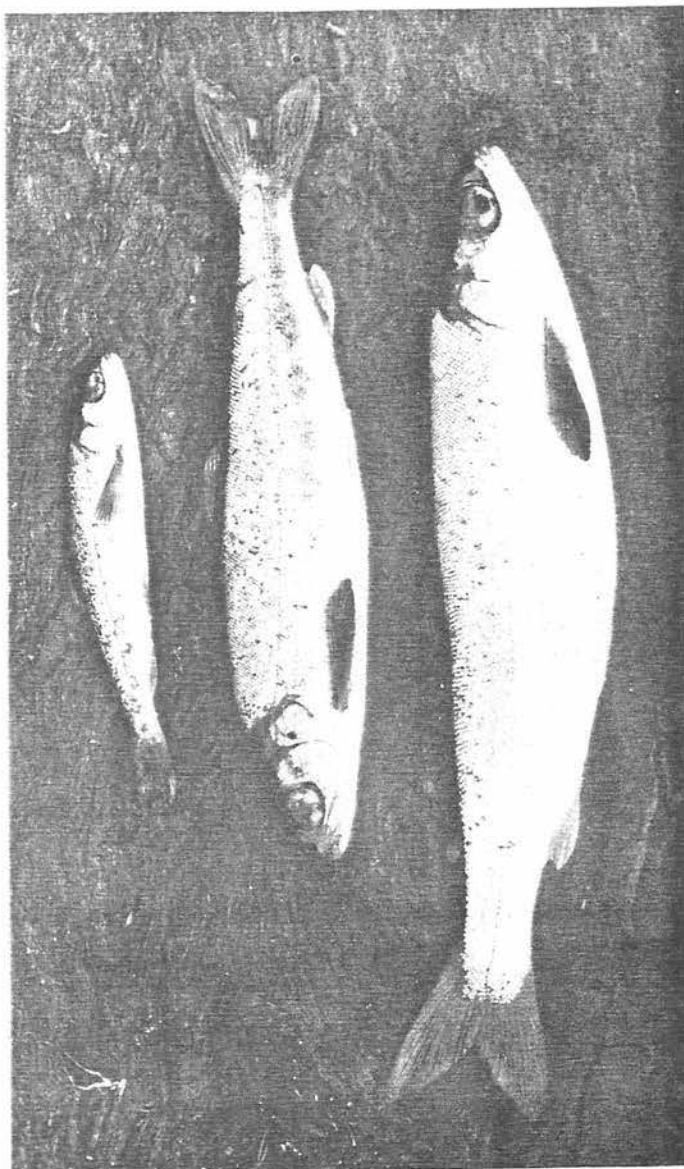


FIG. 4.—Life-size Parr, one year old. Parr, two years old. Smolt, two years. April 1905.

river-mouth many a feathered foe awaits their coming, Cormorants, Goosanders, Red-breasted Mergansers, Red-throated Divers, etc., causing great destruction. At the mouth of the river Grimersta in the island of Lewis, I have seen the Red-breasted Mergansers coming and going all day long in a continual stream, feeding on the smolts as they entered the sea. I shot several returning from their forays and found them to be full of smolts. As the smolts

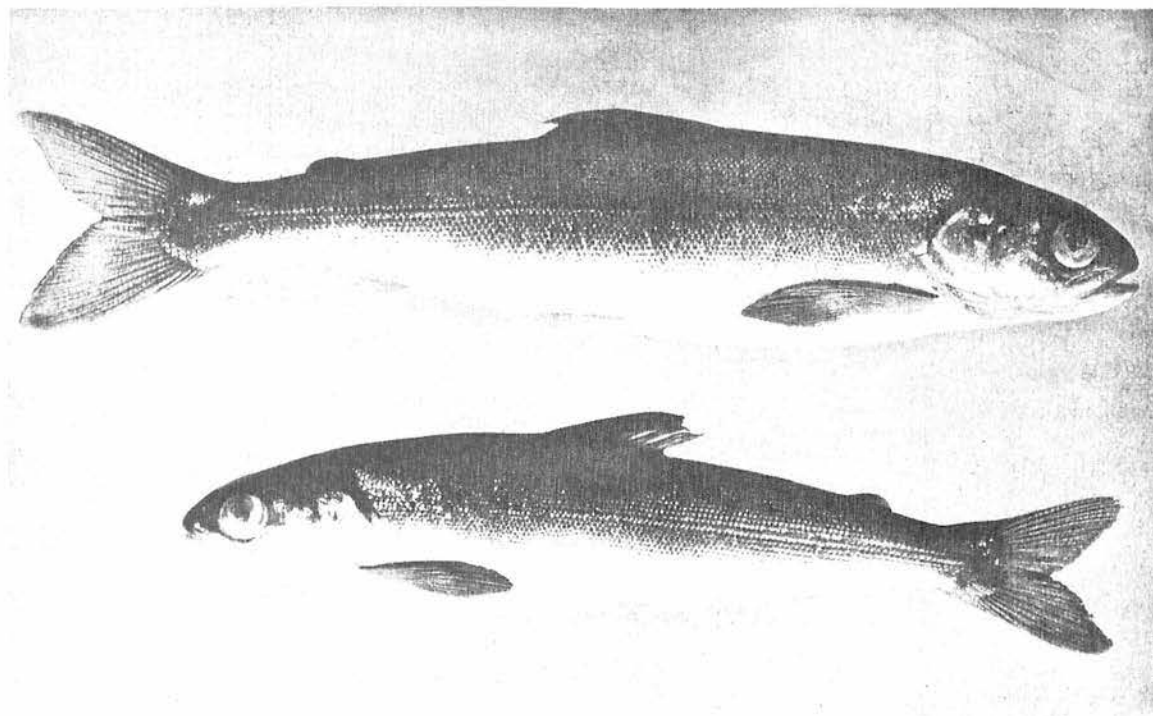


FIG. 5.—Real Smolts, life size, with their silvery coat complete, on their way to the sea.
1st May 1905.

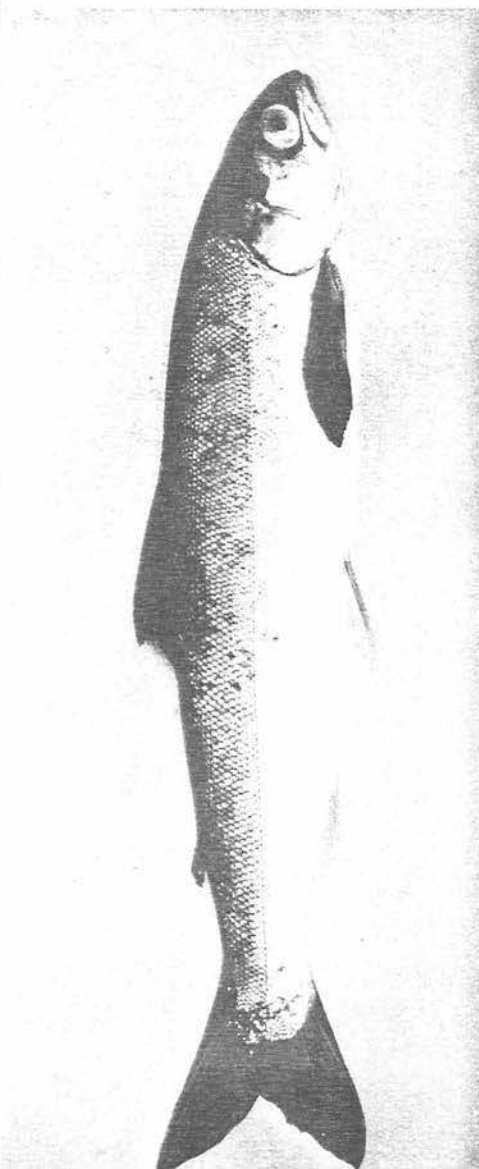


FIG. 6.—Life-size Smolt, 1st May 1905.

have so many enemies to evade, too little attention is paid to their protection. Our young grouse would fare badly if protected in a similarly scanty manner. In some rivers, trout-anglers are prohibited from fishing during the time of migration, but during the remainder of the season the parr are slaughtered in thousands. I am certain that in the Tay district at least one thousand parr and smolts per day, from April to September, find their way into the angler's basket. This is a gross total of about 157,000 for six months, and if four per cent found their way back as salmon, the gain would amount to 6280. Now this alone would be a good yield for many rivers; but if we take into consideration the ever-increasing number destroyed by birds, the victims of seals, coal-fish, pollution, etc., we find that the destruc-

tion and loss are appalling.

Sooner or later those having the power to rectify this matter will waken up, and at no distant date our rivers will be teeming with salmon. The wheels of legislation regarding the improvement of our fisheries revolve slowly, however, for year after year the Blue-books contain articles suggesting im-

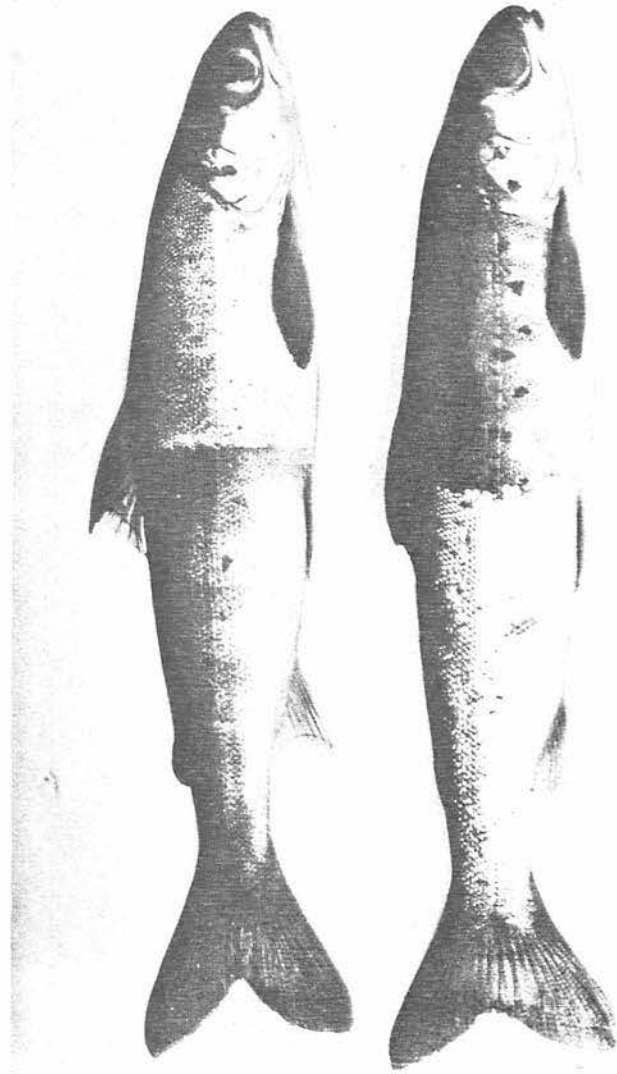
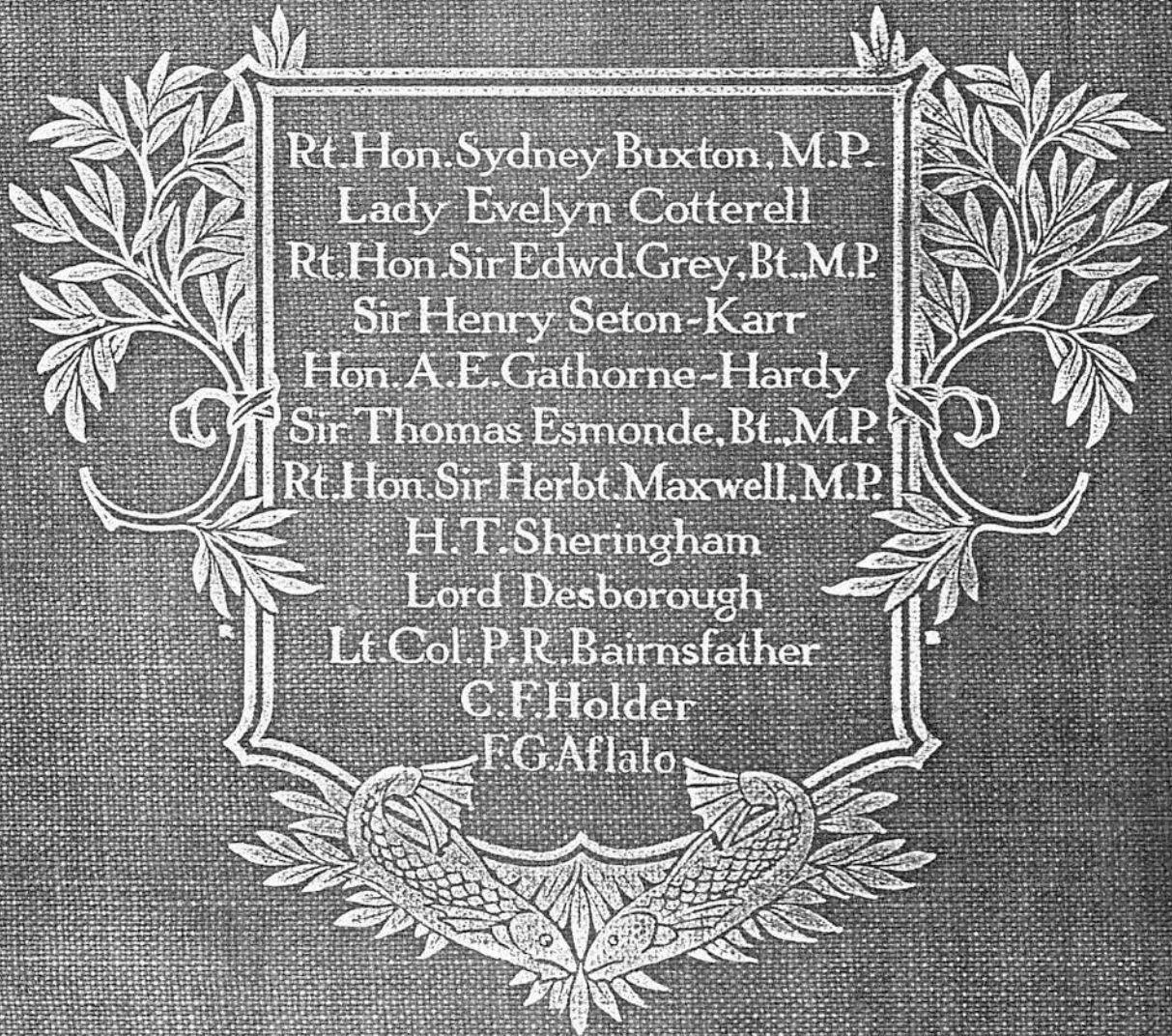


FIG. 7.—Smolts, life size, with the scales taken off, showing the parr lands and spots of the parr.
1st May 1905.

provement, but, like the hardy annual, these are forgotten till they reappear the next season.

A BOOK OF FISHING STORIES

EDITED BY F.G.AFLALO



Rt. Hon. Sydney Buxton, M.P.

Lady Evelyn Cotterell

Rt. Hon. Sir Edwd. Grey, Bt., M.P.

Sir Henry Seton-Karr

Hon. A. E. Gathorne-Hardy

Sir Thomas Esmonde, Bt., M.P.

Rt. Hon. Sir Herbt. Maxwell, M.P.

H. T. Sheringham

Lord Desborough

Lt. Col. P. R. Bairnsfather

C. F. Holder

F. G. Aflalo

INTRODUCTORY

FISHING stories are commonly associated by facetious folk with a measure of prevarication more seductive, it may be, than downright falsehood, but no less unmoral. The fisherman is, by long usage, discredited by his neighbours, who maintain that the truth is not in him. Yet so shrewd a man as Pontius Pilate, having asked "What is truth?", departed without hearing the answer to his question, and even the most reckless exaggerations, of big fish caught and even bigger lost, usually rest upon a basis of fact. This is no place in which to examine the alleged imaginative powers of the reminiscent angler, or to debate the commensurate talent for light fiction in the golfer, horse-dealer, and other outdoor men and women. To some extent, it must be confessed, the disciples of Walton have only themselves to thank for this slur on their veracity, since, instead of indignantly repudiating the charge, they more commonly treat it as a standing joke, and take curious pleasure in telling tales against themselves wherein whales figure as bait, and other gems of mendacity are brought out for inspection.

Although there will be found in these chapters more than one episode so startling as to be credible only to fishermen themselves, the names of the contributors should be sufficient guarantee of their authenticity. Little technical instruction is offered in so many words, though it will not be found lacking for those who trouble to read between the lines. Doctors often write in their prescriptions, *Dearg. pil.*, let the pill be coated with silver; and so, throughout these pages, dogma is so thickly wrapped in anecdote as should be palatable even to the expert. The printed art and science of the sport are already set down in volumes enough and to spare. Comprehensive works like the *Encyclopædia of Sport*, the *Badminton Library* and the *Country Life* and *Haddon Hall* volumes epitomise the whole range of sport with rod and line, and scores of lesser books cover in detail the higher arts of fly-fishing, as well as more homely angling from punt or pier.

The addition of yet another tome of the same kind would have called for more abject apology than need, perhaps, be offered for a work planned on wholly different lines. Reminiscence, not instruction, is the theme of those who have been so good as to contribute to these pages, and one chapter only is not in the nature of anecdote. Yet those who follow the valuable suggestions embodied in Sir Herbert Maxwell's contribution on the improvement of trout fisheries will, it is confidently hoped, welcome it, though departing from the model of the rest, with complete satisfaction. The trout fisherman, alone among lovers of the angle, is increasingly confronted with the pressing problems of restocking and otherwise improving the rivers and lakes to which he looks for his sport. The case of salmon rivers is different, since the salmon is a restless wanderer—here to-day and gone to-morrow—and no scheme of restocking hitherto devised, no matter how lavish and scientific, has been proved to give results as satisfactory as those achieved with trout. The all but miraculous success attained by trout in New Zealand, where the fish have increased in both size and numbers, beyond the wildest dreams of those who first introduced them, is an exceptional triumph of acclimatisation; but even at home many a river which had, through overfishing or other causes, fallen from its high estate has been marvellously restored by judicious introduction of new blood.

Salmon and trout between them fill six other chapters, but few will complain of the allotment of half the book to the game fish, which are treated by many hands and from a variety of aspects. Angling is one of the very few sports in which the sexes are on an equality, and this lends great interest to Lady Evelyn Cotterell's amusing memories of the famous Gordon Castle water on the Spey, while she has incidentally something to say in frank criticism of more than one doctrine held sacrosanct by those who too often approach their sport in a spirit of "as was in the beginning," &c. Another writer on the salmon, Mr. Gathorne-Hardy, turns for inspiration to famous rivers of Scotland and Norway, in which, though thwarted of his ambition to kill a 40-pounder, he can draw upon a long retrospect of excellent sport. One, at any rate, of the

mishaps that befell him in Norway will be found to point a moral and adorn a tale. Sir Henry Seton-Karr, most versatile of sportsmen, ranges over a yet wider territory in both hemispheres, and recalls good days and bad with both salmon and trout.



LADY EVELYN COTTERELL

Brown trout and sea trout are in equally good hands. Mr. Sydney Buxton has snatched odd moments from an abnormally exacting session on the Front Bench to string together fascinating memories of the placid streams in which his mastery of the floating fly has played havoc with lusty fish not to be beguiled by the duffer. Yet, for all his artistic appreciation of the dry-fly, Mr. Buxton assuredly is no purist imbued with lofty and exclusive contempt for any and every other method. He might for choice always fish the rise and not the water, but, if needs must, he can sink his fly with the best and feel no shame in filling his creel by such simpler but still legitimate arts. His harassed colleague, Sir Edward Grey, writes of sea trout with a picturesque touch that proves him as persuasive with fish as with ambassadors. Tact, as well as firmness, is needed by the angler who plays heavy fish on fine tackle, and he also has to practise the give and take called for in diplomacy, more particularly that form of yielding which softens refusal; and it may be that our Foreign Secretary occasionally finds the arts of the waterside, of which he is an acknowledged master, stand him in good stead in the councils of the nations. Public affairs have left him no leisure for writing of his favourite sport quite recently, but, in giving permission to reprint a chapter from his book, he expresses his conviction that he has not in the interval added to his knowledge of sea trout, and that he would in other circumstances have written a very similar article to-day. Trout are not, however, caught in rivers only, and the may-fly week on Irish Loughs is a festival of which Sir Thomas Esmonde tells a delightful story abounding in infectious enthusiasm, which suggests that for him also the love of fishing must be a priceless relaxation in the increasingly rare intervals of respite from arduous duties to his constituents.

Game fish, though holding first place with the angler of catholic affections, are not the only quarry to be considered. One, at least, of the coarse fish, to the smaller and more homely members of which Mr. Sheringham does justice with his usual charm, enjoys a reputation second to none in the esteem of those who have sought it in its Himalayan haunts; and of this giant barbel, the Indian mahseer, Colonel Bairnsfather

gives a most attractive account, coloured with the regret of bygone days so characteristic of retired Anglo-Indians. He makes no pretence to have killed record mahseer. Indeed, as will be seen, one of the fish caught and photographed by Sir Benjamin Simpson, are superior in size to any of his ; but he succeeds in demonstrating that mahseer of even moderate weight give splendid sport amid surroundings so attractive as to enhance the pleasure of catching them. Scenery embodies much of the charm of most inland fishing, and brings balm to many a disappointed sportsman during the course of a blank day.

Even bigger game figures in Lord Desborough's stirring reminiscences of battles with tarpon in the Florida Passes, reprinted by permission from the *National Review*, and in Dr. Holder's fascinating stories of spearing swordfish and playing tuna and other monsters of American seas, chiefly those that wash the charmed island of Santa Catalina. Those of us who are so fortunate as to look back on happy memories of both Florida tarpon and the more varied big game of Californian bays, would find it hard to say which were the more enjoyable. True, the tarpon is always in evidence throughout the summer months, differing in this respect from the tuna, which, in California at any rate, is in some years conspicuous by its absence. Yet swordfish, yellowtail, sea bass and other game offer such prodigal compensation for the absentee on the Pacific side as to send no sportsman home disgusted, even after ten thousand miles of travel.

A word should, perhaps, be said on the subject of the illustrations. The colour photographs of the fish, the work of a member of the firm, were all taken direct from newly caught specimens, and for assistance with the tackle used in the photographs the editor is indebted to Messrs. Farlow. The trout came from Dulverton and were contributed by Mr. Tracy. The bass was caught in the River Teign. For the material used in the group of coarse fish, the book has to thank Mr. A. J. Combridge. Nearly all of the remaining illustrations were supplied by the contributors themselves, who selected them with due regard to their several requirements, while a very few—one or two of which the book owes to the courtesy of Sir Benjamin Simpson, K.C.I.E., Mr. Julian Dimock, Miss Esther Archer and Mr. A. R. Matthews—have been added where they seemed to fill a gap.