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LING LITERATURE IN  
ENGLAND

AND

DESCRIPTIONS OF FISHING BY

THE ANCIENTS:

A NOTICE OF SOME BOOKS ON OTHER  
PISCATORIAL SUBJECTS.

BY

OSMUND LAMBERT.

LONDON:

N. TOW, MARSTON, SEARLE, & RIVINGTON,  
CROWN BUILDINGS, FLEET STREET.

1881.

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ANGLING LITERATURE.





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BY

OSMUND LAMBERT.

"Nor did he forget his innate pleasure of Angling,  
which he would usually call, 'his idle time not idly  
spent.'"—WALTON'S *Life of Wotton*.

LONDON:

SAMPSON LOW, MARSTON, SEARLE, & RIVINGTON,  
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TOOKS COURT, CHANCERY LANE.



I DEDICATE THIS BOOK

TO

MY DEAR WIFE.

220867





**T**HE following pages are chiefly intended to present a clear view of our most prominent angling literature. Some space is devoted to descriptions of fishing by Greek and Latin authors, because the works of the two great classical peoples of the past are common to all countries. There will also be found a short account of a few books on other subjects interesting to fishermen, as well as a notice of some bibliographical catalogues of books on fish and fishing.

1881.







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## ANGLING LITERATURE.

### CHAPTER I.

#### INTRODUCTION, BIBLIOGRAPHY.

##### INTRODUCTION.

**A**NGLING is one of the most popular of our national sports: all can indulge in it to some extent; and those who enjoy a full share of hunting and shooting are often enthusiastic fishermen. There are some anglers who take a pleasure in looking back into the past for an early notice of anything that may relate to their art. Every one is familiar with the various allusions to fishing in the Old and New Testaments. But to select from the nations of remote antiquity one people especially remarkable for its numerous attainments, we

find, according to Sir John Gardner Wilkinson's well-known book, that fishing was a favourite pursuit with the Egyptians; that it was neither confined to young persons nor thought unworthy of men of serious habits, and that while it was followed by the poor, it was at the same time an amusement in which the wealthy particularly delighted. There can be no doubt that fishing was in vogue among the ancient Greeks and Romans, though certainly the latter cared more for promoting the success of their celebrated Vivaria than for wandering by lake and stream with rod in hand. Angling literature commenced when letters began to revive after the Middle Ages. Its far greater popularity in our own country than elsewhere is well established by the analysis given in the preface to Mr. Westwood's "Bibliotheca Piscatoria," where attention is also directed to the large increase of angling works during the present century.



## BIBLIOGRAPHY.

There are six catalogues of books on fishing which invite some notice. From these may be gathered short particulars of all that has been written concerning the art both in the United Kingdom and in other countries throughout Europe.

The first, called "A Catalogue of Books on Angling," was prepared by Sir Henry Ellis, for many years principal librarian to the British Museum; it was published in the second volume (1812) of "The British Bibliographer," and some copies were taken off separately: a reprint without acknowledgment is to be found in the Supplement (1813) to Daniel's "Rural Sports." The biographical and bibliographical notes of the author show that he was painstaking, but the list is not a long one, and should have included many more books.

Next appeared Pickering's "Bibliotheca Piscatoria, a Catalogue of Books upon Angling," which was annexed to "Piscatorial Reminiscences and Gleanings, by an old Angler and Biblioplist," (1835). It was

formed on a copy corrected by Sir Henry Ellis of his catalogue, comprises many more works than its predecessor, and like it contains bibliographical notes.

Dr. Bethune, a scholar, the author of several works, and the American editor of a well-known edition of "The Complete Angler," prefaced that edition in 1847 with an interesting account of books on fishing before Walton, and, by way of appendix, added a "List of Books on Fish and Fishing." This list, which is founded on Sir Henry Ellis's catalogue as reprinted by Pickering, mentions Greek and Latin authors whose works contain descriptions of fishing. Mr. Westwood, in the preface to his catalogue, says that Bethune's is one of the best in principle and most complete in execution.

Nine years after the appearance of Bethune's list, there was published by Russell Smith, the compiler, "A Bibliographical Catalogue of Books on Angling," which was bound up with Robert Blakey's "Historical Sketches of the Angling Literature of all Nations," and it was also issued as a distinct work. The author says it is founded on the three lists already

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named, and adds that he has corrected and greatly augmented them all, omitting many works that treat only incidentally of angling, in place of which, he remarks that he has given for the first time a complete list of English writers on ichthyology.

Then followed a catalogue that deserves the greatest praise ; it was contributed by Mr. Thomas Westwood, a poet, and the author of "The Chronicle of the Compleat Angler." This list, "A New Bibliotheca Piscatoria ; or General Catalogue of Angling and Fishing Literature, with Bibliographical Notes and Data," appeared in 1861, and was prepared for the guidance of collectors of angling books. The preface contains some interesting bibliographical statistics, which show that the number of our own books on the sport exceeds that of other countries by an overwhelming majority. Several catalogues of private collections of angling works sold by collectors, and a number of manuscripts are enumerated. Bibliographical notes frequently occur, and in many cases they are lengthy. The sums realized by sales of the most prized works are also given, a circumstance which enhances

the value of this list, already a very scarce book. The specification of the various copies and editions of the "Book of Saint Albans" forms an appendix to the work. A new edition, greatly enlarged, is promised shortly.

The sixth and last of the catalogues referred to is the "Bibliotheca Ichthyologica et Piscatoria," of D. Mulder Bosgoed, published at Harlem, in 1874. This is the most comprehensive catalogue of its kind that has ever appeared, as it is devoted to every description of literature on fish, fishing, and like subjects. The labour involved in its preparation must have been great indeed, and could only have been persevered in by a most industrious and painstaking compiler.





## CHAPTER II.

### DESCRIPTIONS OF FISHING BY GREEK AND LATIN AUTHORS.

**P**ROMINENT and well-known works of ancient Greek and Latin authors contain no didactic treatise on the art of fishing: indeed, they include no book of any kind on angling, and but one complete work treating of fishing. To collect from the classics in question every notice that is taken of the subject, would be an endless task; but the following pages disclose a few examples intended to illustrate in some measure the piscatorial knowledge of the past. That there did exist at one time several treatises by the ancients on fishing, is known from an account left us by Athenaeus, in the twenty-second chapter of the first book of the "Deipnosophistae," where he mentions a number of

authors who wrote poems and prose works professedly on this subject. These compositions are, however, all lost.

Without doubt the greatest work of antiquity on fishing is the poem in Greek hexameters, 'Αλιευτικά (Halieutica), of Oppian, of whose life very little that is certain has been preserved. There is good reason for supposing that he was born at Corycus, or at Anazarba, in Cilicia, and he is said to have flourished about A.D. 180. It has been asserted that he purchased the freedom of his father through the favour his verses met with at the hands of the emperor. The work has frequently been praised, and not without reason. The Halieutics of Oppian are contained in five books, the first two treating of the nature of fishes, the remaining three of sea-fishing;<sup>1</sup> and though they do not disclose much belonging to the angler's art, they nevertheless contain passages which leave no doubt that some of the tackle now in use

<sup>1</sup> Schneider's edition of Oppian's works, Argent., 1776, is a good edition. There is an English translation of the Halieutics by Diaper and Jones, Oxford, 1722.

is not quite so modern in point of invention as may be supposed.

Some noteworthy lines on angling occur in the "Mosella," the most pleasing of the idyls of Ausonius, a Latin poet of the fourth century A.D., and a native of Burdigala (Bordeaux),<sup>r</sup> who not only made for himself a name as a writer of verse, but who also took a leading part in public affairs. He was raised to high state honours, and it may be said that he was one of the men of his day. The "Mosella," as the name implies, is an account of the Moselle, and naturally the poet mentions the fish that inhabit its waters; but what is more to the present purpose, he draws a picture of a fisherman practising his art with rod and line in the river that forms the theme of these verses. The trout and grayling are both noticed. A description is given of the salmon which is especially interesting, both on account of its being a faithful delineation of the fish, and because it is probably the earliest of any importance. In reading Ausonius's verses, no one can help being struck with the fact that into the Moselle flows the Salme (Salmona), from which, perhaps, the salmon is

called, unless the fish has given its name to the river. This idyl also contains some lines on the pike, the salmon-trout, and many other kinds of our well-known fishes. But to pass on to what the poet says about angling in the blue waters of the Moselle, the following are his verses at length :—

“ Ille autem scopulis subjectas pronus in undas,  
 Inclinat lentae convexa cacumina virgae,  
 Indutos escis jaciens letalibus hamos.  
 Quos ignara doli postquam vaga turba natantum  
 Rictibus invasit, patulæque per intima fauces  
 Sera occultati senserunt vulnera ferri,  
 Dum trepidant, subit indicium : crispoque tremori  
 Vibrantis setae nutans consentit harundo.  
 Nec mora : & excussam stridenti verbere praedam  
 Dextera in obliquum raptat puer excipit ictum  
 Spiritus, ut fractis quondam per inane flagellis  
 Aura crepat, motoque adsibilat aëre ventus.  
 Exsultant udae super arida saxa rapinae,  
 Luciferique pavent letalia tela diei.  
 Quique sub amne suo mansit vigor, aëre nostro  
 Segnis anhelatis vitam consumit in auris.  
 Jam piger invalido vibratur corpore plausus ;  
 Torpida supremos patitur jam cauda tremores,  
 Nec coëunt rictus : haustas sed hiatibus auras  
 Reddit mortiferos expirans branchia flatus.  
 Sic ubi fabriles exercet spiritus ignes,  
 Accipit alterno cohibetque foramine ventos



Lanea fagineis alludens parma cavernis.  
 Vidi egomet quosdam leti sub fine trementes  
 Collegisse animas : mox in sublime citatos,  
 Cernua subjectum praeceps dare corpora in amnem,  
 Desperatarum potientes rursus aquarum.  
 Quos impos damni puer in consultus ab alto  
 Impetit, & stolido captat prensare natatu.”<sup>1</sup>

Whatever may be the merits of Oppian and Ausonius, yet, as fly-fishing is the highest

<sup>1</sup> Or to render them in prose :—“ While the other, stooping over the rocks towards the waters below, lowers the bending top of his limber rod, casting his hooks laden with killing baits. Upon these the vagrant crowd of fishes, unskilled in snares, rush, and their gaping jaws feel too late the wounds inflicted by the hidden steel ; their quivering tells the fisherman of his success, and the wavy rod yields to the quivering tremor of the shaking line ; and at once the angler jerks sideways his stricken prey with a whistling sound (*i.e.* the rapidity of his action in bringing out his line makes the air whistle). The air receives the blow, as when it resounds with the cracking of a whip and the wind hisses from the air in motion. The watery spoils (*i.e.* caught fish) jump on the dry rocks, and dread the death-dealing beams of the light of day. They that were so full of vigour in their native waters, spiritless gasp out their wasting lives in our air ; now with weakened body they wriggle feebly on the ground—the torpid tail quivers its last ; the jaws do not close,

branch of angling, the earliest account we have concerning it deserves particular attention. This is to be found in Aelian's work, *Περὶ Ζώων ιδιότητος*, or to give its better known Latin title "De Animalium Natura," and may be expressed in English as follows: "I have heard of a Macedonian way of catching fish, and it is this: between Beroica and Thessalonica runs a river called the Astracus, and in it there are fish with spotted (or speckled) skins; what the natives of the country call them you had better ask the Macedonians. These fish feed on a fly which is peculiar to the country, and which hovers

but through its gills, dying it gives back in mortal gasps the breath it draws; as when the wind plays on the fires of a workshop the (opening) mouth of the beech-covered (sided) bellows alternately draws in and expels the blast. Some (fish) I have seen even at the point of death gather up their strength, then spring aloft and fling their curved bodies headlong into the stream below and regain enjoyment of the waters lost to hope; while after them the fisherman, impatient at his loss, wildly leaps, and by swimming vainly strives to grasp them again."

The Latin quotation is taken from Tollius's edition of Ausonius, Amsterdam, 1671, a somewhat rare book, but an edition much recommended.

over the river. It is not like flies found elsewhere, nor does it resemble a wasp in appearance, nor in shape would one justly describe it as a midge or a bee, yet it has something of each of these. In boldness it is like a fly, in size you might call it a bee, it imitates the colour of the wasp, and it hums like a bee. The natives call it the Hippouros. As these flies seek their food over the river, they do not escape the observation of the fish swimming below. When then a fish observes a fly hovering above, it swims quietly up, fearing to agitate the water, lest it should scare away its prey, then coming up by its shadow, it opens its jaws and gulps down the fly, like a wolf carrying off a sheep from the flock, or an eagle a goose from the farmyard; having done this, it withdraws under the rippling water. Now though the fishermen know of this, they do not use these flies at all for bait for the fish; for if a man's hand touch them, they lose their colour, their wings decay, and they become unfit for food for the fish. For this reason they have nothing to do with them, hating them for their bad character; but they have planned a snare for the fish, and get the

better of them by their fisherman's craft. → They fasten red (crimson-red) wool round a hook and fit on to the wool two feathers which grow under a cock's wattles, and which in colour are like wax. Their rod is six feet long and the line is of the same length. Then they throw their snare, and the fish attracted and maddened by the colour comes up, thinking, from the pretty sight, to get a dainty mouthful; when, however, it opens its jaws, it is caught by the hook and enjoys a bitter repast, a captive."<sup>1</sup>

Besides this, ~~Aelian's~~ History of Animals includes particulars of other modes of fishing by the ancients. It may be observed, in order to fix the date of the work, that the author lived at Rome about the middle of the third century of the Christian era.

Several halieutical verses are contained in the first volume of the "Poetae Latini Minores."<sup>2</sup> The "Mosella" already men-

<sup>1</sup> Book xv. cap. 1. This translation has been made from Schneider's edition of Aelian. There is another good edition by Fr. Jacobs, Jena, 1832.

<sup>2</sup> "Ex recensione Wernsdorfiana," edited by Lemaire, Paris, 1824.

tioned appears here, together with another poem by Ausonius on the oyster; and the same volume comprises some fragmentary verses attributed to Ovid.

It is the "Halieuticon" that is ascribed to this poet, and, although some writers have imputed it to Grattus Faliscus, we have, nevertheless, this commendation of it by Pliny the elder:—"The disposition of fishes which Ovid has mentioned in his work called 'Halieuticon,' appears to me really wonderful."<sup>1</sup> Those who hold it to be a genuine work of Ovid, assign its composition to the time of the poet's exile at Tomi (A.D. 9-18). The more we read it the more we may well lament the imperfect condition in which it has come down to us, for what remains is quite sufficient to convince its readers that the author was able to represent his subject in fitting verse. Some are of opinion that it purposes to represent the points of resemblance in terrestrial and aquatic animals. There may perhaps be better reasons for assuming that it is intended to draw the often repeated comparison between hunting, fowl-

<sup>1</sup> Book xxxii. cap. 2.

ing, and fishing. We are told how one fish, when it has greedily seized the prey hanging from the fishing-line, deceives the angler, on his raising the rod, by rejecting the hook which it has despoiled of the bait: how another, lashed into furious rage, is carried along with its flounderings, following the current by which it is borne, and how it wriggles about its head until the hook falls from the loosened wound.

“Lupus acri concitus ira,  
Discursu fertur vario, fluctusque ferentes  
Prosequitur, quassatque caput, dum vulnere saevus  
Laxato cadat hamus, et ora patentia linquat.”<sup>1</sup>

But when the poet says—

“Noster in arte labor positus, spes omnis in illa,”<sup>2</sup>

does he not mean to bestow his greatest praise on the fisherman's craft? He recommends his disciples not to go out into the midst of the ocean, or to try the depths of the open sea, but to regulate their cable according to each kind of locality:—

<sup>1</sup> “Halieuticon,” vol. i., p. 222. Poetae Latini Minores. Lemaire, Paris, 1824.

<sup>2</sup> *Ib.*, p. 226.

“Nec tamen in medias pelagi te pergere sedes  
 Admoneam, vastique maris tentare profundum.  
 Inter utrumque loci melius moderabere finem,  
 Aspera num saxis loca sint ; nam talia lentos  
 Deposcut calamos ; at purum retia litus.  
 Num mons horentes demittat celsior umbras  
 In mare ; nam varie quidam fugiuntque petuntque.”<sup>1</sup>

In another fragment, in the same book, may be found something to show that when this was composed the maxim against angling in bright weather was even then understood, for the following lines occur in this poem :—

“At tu, quum vastas terras super aureus it Sol,  
 Plenaque vel tacito vectatur Cynthia caelo,  
 Necquidquam insidias tendas sub nocte silenti :  
 Namque procul fluitantem hamum, vel retia cernunt,  
 Candida nocturnas pellit quum Luna tenebras :  
 Idcirco, ponti subeat dum templa, morare.”<sup>2</sup>

It may be interesting to call attention to fable 8 in book xiii. of Ovid’s “Metamorphoses.” Here it is related how Glaucus, when he saw some fishes that he had laid on the grass revive again and leap into the water, tried the effect of the grass upon himself, and

<sup>1</sup> *Ib.* p. 226.

<sup>2</sup> *Ib.* pp. 233, 234.

becoming demented, he cast himself into the ocean, and was transformed into a sea-god.

Theocritus (B.C. 284), in his twenty-first idyl, which is descriptive of the fisherman's life, gives a colloquy between two fishermen, in which one asks his companion to unriddle his dream. It was that he had caught a gold fish, and thereupon swore to eschew his trade for the future. Having discovered that he had only been dreaming, he is in doubt if he is bound by the oath it seemed he had taken, and his companion endeavours to dispel his scruples. The preface to the dialogue describes the equipment of these fishermen as:—

“The basket, rush-trap, line, and reedy shaft,  
Weed-tangled baits, a drag-net with its drops,  
Hooks, cord, two oars, an old boat fixt on props.”<sup>1</sup>

And Asphalion, the dreamer, in recounting his dream, says:—

“I saw myself upon a rock, where I  
Sat watching for the fish—so eagerly!

<sup>1</sup> Davies and Chapman's translation. Bohn, London, 1853.



And from the reed the tripping bait did shake  
Till a fat fellow took it—no mistake :

\* \* \* \* \*

He hugged the hook, and then his blood did flow ;  
His plunges bent my reed like any bow ;  
I stretched both arms, and had a pretty bout,  
To take with hook so weak a fish so stout.  
I gently warned him of the wound he bore ;  
'Ha ! will you prick me ? You'll be pricked much  
more.'

But when he struggled not, I drew him in ;  
The contest then I saw myself did win."<sup>1</sup>

The "Geoponika" is a well-known ancient work on agriculture. It was compiled from various authors, probably by Cassianus Bassus, though it is usually attributed to the Emperor Constantine VII. (A.D. 911-959). The twentieth book is a collection of receipts for manufacturing all sorts of baits.

It must not be supposed that Pliny's "Natural History" or the works of the "Scriptores Rei Rusticae" (Cato, Varro, Columella, and Palladius) have been lost sight of. These books, though they comprise the most interesting accounts of the great Vivaria of the ancients, contain nothing descriptive of the

<sup>1</sup> *Ib.*

art of angling. Neither has Aristotle's "History of Animals" been forgotten, nor the "Onomasticon" of Julius Pollux, nor Xenocrates's little work, *Περὶ τῆς ἀκὸ τῶν Ἐνύδρων Τροφῆς* (*De Alimento ex Aquatilibus*). The chapter on the comparative craftiness of water and land animals in Plutarch's "Moralia," which recalls the laconic saying: "Show me your tackle and I'll tell you your sport," has also been remembered, as well as the "Fisherman" by Lucian.

As already pointed out, allusions to fishing are frequent throughout the classics. Mr. W. C. Green, in his translation of "The Similes of Homer's Iliad," says there are three similes taken from fishing in Homer, all of which he notices, and he says that the following passage refers to line fishing:—

"He spake, and storm-foot Iris rose to bear  
The Father's word. Midway between the isles,  
Samos and rocky Imbros, down she plunged  
In the dark sea, and loud the waters roared.  
Plumb to the bottom sank she, as the lead  
Which, set in ox-horn pipe that guards the line,  
Sinks fraught with fated doom to greedy fish."<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> "Similes," cxlix. Longmans, 1877.

A description, and perhaps the happiest by ancient or modern writers, of the grayling (*Salmo Thymallus*) has been left us by Saint Ambrose, whom Izaak Walton calls "the glorious bishop of Milan." It is to be met with in the second chapter of the fifth book of the "Hexaemeron, or the Six Days Work of the Creation." This book may be called an example of Angling or Fishing Spiritualized. Here is the passage alluded to:—

"Neque te inhonoratum nostra prosecutione thymalle dimittam, cui a flore nomen inolevit: seu Ticini te fluminis, seu amoeni Atesis unda nutrierit, flos es. Denique sermo testator, quod de eo qui gratam redolet suavitatem, dictum facete sit: aut piscem olet aut florem; ita idem pronuntiatus est piscis odor esse qui floris. Quid specie tua gratius? Quid suavitate jucundius? Quid odore fragrantius? Quod mella fragrant, hoc tu corpore tuo spiras."

Which may thus be translated:—

"Nor shall I leave thee unhonoured in my discourse, O Thymallus (grayling), whose name is given thee by a flower; whether the waters of the Ticino produce thee or those of

the pleasant Atesis, a flower thou art. In fine the common saying attests it; for it is pleasantly said of one who gives out an agreeable sweetness: he smells either of fish or flower; thus the fragrance of the fish is asserted to be the same as that of the flower. What is more pleasing than thy form? more delightful than thy sweetness? more fragrant than thy smell? The fragrance of the honey exhales from thy body."

In the Greek Anthology, moreover, we have an epitaph on an angler by Leonidas of Tarentum, the following translation of which is given in "Blackwood's Magazine":—

"Parmis, the son of Callignotus, he  
 Who troll'd for fish the margin of the sea,  
 Chief of his craft, whose keen, perceptive search,  
 The kichlé, scarus, bait-devouring perch,  
 And such as love the hollow clefts, and those  
 That in the caverns of the deep repose,  
 Could not escape, is dead.

Parmis had lured  
 A julis from its rocky haunts, secured  
 Between his teeth the slippery pert, when, lo!  
 It jerk'd into the gullet of its foe,  
 Who fell beside his lines, and hooks, and rod,  
 And the choked fisher sought his last abode.

His dust lies here. Stranger, this humble grave  
An angler to a brother angler gave.”<sup>1</sup>

In conclusion, it should be observed, that, in weaving together the materials of which this chapter is composed, it has been considered that by adopting the existing arrangement a clearer view would be presented of what has been collected, than could be afforded if a chronological order were pursued ; and perhaps it should be added that original Greek passages in every instance have been intentionally omitted.

<sup>1</sup> Translated by William Hay. “Blackwood’s Magazine,” vol. xxxviii., p. 646.





### CHAPTER III.

#### ANGLING LITERATURE IN ENGLAND.

**A**NGLING literature in England compared with what has been written in other European countries concerning the sport ranks first and foremost on all scores. There cannot be found among European works on angling, any book of earlier date than the first English publication treating of fishing with a rod and line:<sup>1</sup> no

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<sup>1</sup> The date of the publication of the second edition of the "Book of Saint Albans," which contains this treatise on angling, is, as will be presently seen, 1496. A claim to priority has been made for a curious little Dutch work; but this claim has hardly been substantiated. The book is not dated; the evidence of its having been printed in 1492, before the second edition of the "Book of St. Albans," is really not conclusive, and the book is nothing more than a collection of receipts, and not unlike the "Geoponika"

country can boast of a volume that at all comes up to our famous classic on the gentle art; and we are the greatest contributors to the Angling Library in point of numbers.

The order of this chapter, like that of the preceding one, is not entirely chronological. The earliest English book on angling stands first on account of its prime importance in regard to date: the greatest work on the sport is next noticed; and then follows our earliest of Cassianus Bassus or Constantine VII. mentioned in the previous chapter, but the "Geoponika" is of much earlier date than the Dutch tract. It has been translated into English, and the preface to the twenty-five copies printed for private distribution in 1872 bears the initials (A. D.) of Mr. Alfred Denison, the great angling-book collector. Mr. Westwood, in his "Bibliotheca Piscatoria," mentions one work as belonging to the fourteenth century, viz., Peter Crescentius's treatise on Agriculture, originally written in Latin; but he only mentions this as containing something appertaining to the Angling Library, and not as including a substantive treatise on the sport. A notice of some interesting angling lore of the fourteenth century is to be found in "Notes and Queries" (4th, 5, 11, Nov. 21st, 1868, p. 482), and the "Angler's Note Book" (No. 5, March 15th, 1880, p. 76) contains some remarks on what is probably the oldest notice of Fishing in the English language.

and perhaps still most pleasing didactic poem on angling. It is believed that most people will take some interest in these three books, and it is hoped that, by limiting, as far as possible, the scope of the present chapter to works of more or less general note, some even who are not anglers will be interested in the other books mentioned. To this end only a few prominent works have been selected. The choice has been confined to one or two early and curious books, a few poetical works, two prose treatises of comparatively modern date, and some articles on the sport in Magazines and Reviews; but it must be remembered that besides these and apart from the text-books of the day, treated of in the next chapter, there are many other very good examples of our angling literature.

The first printed English book on the art forms part of the second edition of the "Book of Saint Albans," and is said to have been written early in the fifteenth century. The "Book of Saint Albans" has been the subject of much inquiry. Not only is its authorship a matter of conjecture, but the history of the lady to whom it has been attributed is any-



thing but clear. Joseph Haslewood, who, in 1810, reprinted in *facsimile* the second edition, has collected, in his preliminary notices, about all that seems to be known of the "Book of Saint Albans." It has been generally considered that Julyans or Juliana Barnes, otherwise Berners, was the author. It is supposed that she was the daughter of Sir James Berners, of Roding-Berners, in the hundred of Dunmow and county of Essex, who was beheaded on Tower Hill during the reign of Richard II. ; that she flourished about 1460, and was prioress of Sopwell convent in Hertfordshire.<sup>1</sup> The first edition was printed by the schoolmaster of St. Albans, at that place, in 1486. The treatise on angling is not contained in this edition ; but, as already mentioned, it forms part of the second edition, which was printed at Westminster in 1496, not much more than forty years after the date of the Mazarin Bible, the first important work of John Gutenberg of Mentz, the inventor of printing, and scarcely twenty years after the " Dictes & Sayings of the Philosophers," with little doubt the first book

<sup>1</sup> See note, p. 31.

printed by Caxton on English soil. It was printed by Wynkyn de Worde of Lorraine, one of Caxton's workmen. The question of the authorship of the treatise on angling is too obscure, and involves too long a story to be a fitting subject for the present work : the main point is that this curious but admirable little tract still exists, and it only remains to turn over its pages and give some idea of its contents, evidently the result of experience and practice. Its title, if so it can be called, is, "Here Begynnyth The Treatyse of Fysshynge wyth an Angle." There is a vein of piety running throughout the book, well exemplified by the following passages :—

"Salamon in his parablys sayth that a good spyryte makyth a flourynge aege, that is a fayre aege and a longe. And syth it is soo : I aske this questyon, whiche ben the meanes and the causes that enduce a man in to a mery spyryte : Truly to my beste dyscreõn it semeth good dysportes and honest gamys in whom a man Joyeth without ony repentaunce after. Thenne folowyth it y<sup>t</sup> gode dysportes and honest games ben cause of mannys fayr aege and longe life. And there-

fore now woll I chose of foure good disportes and honest gamys, that is to wyte; of huntynge: hawkyng: fyshynge: and foulynge. The beste to my symple dyscreçon whyche is fysshynge: callyd Anglyng wyth a rodde: and a lyne and an hoke.”<sup>1</sup>

Further on some of the advantages that an angler possesses are, even at this early date, described in such happy words as these:—

“ And yet atte the leest he hath his holsom walke and mery at his ease: a swete ayre of the swete sauoure of the meede floures: that makyth hym hungry. He hereth the melodious armony of fowles. He seeth the yonge swannes: heerons: duckes: cotes and many other foules wyth theyr brodes; whyche me semyth better than alle the noyse of houndys: the blastes of hornys and the scrye of foulis that hunters: fawkeners and foulers can make. And yf the angler take fysshe: surely thenne is there noo man merier than he is in his spyryte.

“ ¶ Also who soo woll vse the game of anglyng: he must ryse early, whyche thyng is

<sup>1</sup> Pickering's reprint of "The Treatyse of Fysshynge wyth an Angle," p. 1. London, 1827.

prouffyttable to man in this wyse. That is to wyte: moost to the heele of his soule. For it shall cause hym to be holy. And to the heele of his body. For it shall cause him to be hole. Also to the encrease of his goodys. For it shall make hym ryche. As the olde Englysshe prouerbe sayth in this wyse. ¶ Who soo woll ryse erly shall be holy helthy and zely.”<sup>1</sup>

Then are given directions, which are elucidated with quaint illustrations, for making various kinds of tackle: we are told how and where to angle, and when to go a-fishing, what fishes may be caught, and the baits wherewith good sport may be insured. In conclusion, the author says:—

“¶ Also ye shall not vse this forsayd crafty dysporte for no covetysenes to thencreasyng & sparynge of your money oonly, but pryncypally for your solace & to cause the helthe of your body, and specyally of your soule. For whanne ye purpoos to goo on your disportes in fysshing ye woll not desyre gretly many persones wyth you. Whiche myghte lette you of your game. And thenne

<sup>1</sup> *Ib.* pp. 5, 6.

ye maye serue God deuoutly in sayenge affectionously youre custumable prayer. . . . And all those that done after this rule shall haue the blessinge of God & saynt Petyr, whyche he them graunte that wyth his precyous blood vs boughte.”<sup>1</sup>

Specification of the various editions of the “Book of Saint Albans” is contained in the preliminary notices to Haslewood’s *facsimile* of 1810, and in the appendix to Westwood’s “Bibliotheca Piscatoria.” A beautiful *facsimile* of “The Treatyse of Fysshynge wyth an Angle,” forming part of the second edition of the “Book of Saint Albans,” has lately been issued by Mr. Elliot Stock, who will publish shortly a *facsimile* of the first edition of the latter work. The coming publication, which is to be uniform with the treatise on “Angling,” will comprise what promises to be a very interesting introduction by Mr. William Blades.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Ib.* pp. 39, 40.

<sup>2</sup> This has since appeared. Mr. Blades thinks it not improbable that the greater portion of the book on Hunting, forming part of the “Book of Saint Albans,” was compiled by one Julyans Barnes, but he discovers nothing to prove who she was. He says there is not

Our golden age, says Hallam, in his "Introduction to the Literature of Europe," began "with him who has never since been rivalled in grace, humour, and invention. Walton's 'Complete Angler,' published in 1653," he continues, "seems by the title a strange choice out of all the books of half a century; yet its simplicity, its sweetness, its natural grace, and happy intermixture of graver strains with the precepts of angling, have rendered this book deservedly popular." English literature possesses in Gilbert White's "Natural History of Selborne" another ornament which cannot be forgotten in speaking of Walton's "Discourse on Fishing," but of the two, is not the "Complete Angler" still the greater favourite? Izaak Walton was born at Stafford, in 1593, and appears to have been a resident in London during his twentieth year. After having acquired, in the trade of a linendraper, which he carried on in London, a competence sufficient for his moderate wants, he retired from business at about fifty; and living a simple life among many learned a shadow of evidence for crediting her with the authorship of the treatise on Fishing.

and accomplished men of his day, he amused himself with literature and his favourite pastime of angling. Those masterpieces, his "Lives" of Donne, Wotton, Hooker, Herbert, and Sanderson, display the same originality as that which is so conspicuous in the "Complete Angler," and are equally unlike anything else in literature. The great age to which he lived, ninety years, may well be regarded as one of the many happy results of his calm and peaceful disposition. His biography has nowhere, perhaps, been told in more pleasing terms than in the account of his life by Dr. Zouch, while for accuracy, fulness of details, and the results of modern research, we are indebted to Sir Harris Nicholas, who wrote the memoirs and notes prefixed to Pickering's famous edition of the "Complete Angler." But the best insight into his true and natural character is to be got in the "Complete Angler" itself, for Walton himself says, in his Epistle to the Reader, that the whole Discourse is a picture of his own disposition. Those who compare this Discourse with the Dialogue on the comparative cunning of land and water animals in Plutarch's "Moralia," with "The Treatyse

of Fysshyng wyth an Angle," with the "Book of Agriculture" (*Rei rusticae, libri quatuor, &c.*), by Conrad Heresbach,<sup>1</sup> "Councillor to the High and Mighty Prince of Cleves," in the sixteenth century, and with Bishop Mor-ton's "Treatise on the Nature of God," 1599,<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> This book, which is rare, contains a treatise in three parts on Hunting, Hawking, and Fishing. An account of it, by Mr. Westwood, is to be found in No. 8 (30th April, 1880) of "The Angler's Note-Book and Naturalist's Record," a most welcome periodical, which also contains a translation of the part on fishing.

<sup>2</sup> The "Treatise on the Nature of God" opens as follows:—

"Gent. Well ouer-taken Syr.

"Schol. You are wel-come Gentleman.

"Gent. No great Gen-tleman Sir, but one that wisheth well to all that meane well: I pray you, how farre doo you trauell this way?

"Sch. As farre as Yorke.

"Gent. I should be glad, if I might haue your company thither.

The first edition of the "Compleat Angler" be-gins thus:—

"Piscator. You are wel overtaken Sir; a good morning to you. I have stretch'd my legs up *Totnan Hil* to over-take you, hoping your businesse may occasion you towards *Ware*, this fine pleasant fresh *May day* in the morning.

"Viator. Sir, I shall almost answer your hopes: for my purpose is to be at *Hodsden* (three



should remember that Walton says in his "Life of Wotton," when referring to a sentence of which Wotton claimed to be the author:—" And if any one shall object, as I think some have, that Sir Henry Wotton was not the first author of this sentence ; but that this, or a sentence like it, was long before his time ; to him I answer, that Solomon says, nothing can be spoken, that hath not been spoken ; for there is no new thing under the sun." Besides Hallam, Dr. Johnson, Sir Walter Scott, Wordsworth, Charles Lamb, and Hazlitt, how many other distinguished writers are there who have paid the highest tribute of praise to the memory of Izaak Walton ! There may be a few and almost unknown authors who have declined to join in this general acclamation : only one, however, has made

"Sch. And I, if my company might stand you in any steed : but how-soeuer it be, you may command it : and by vouchsafing me the benefit of your company, make mee much beholden to you," &c.

miles short of that Town) I wil not say, before I drink ; but before I break my fast : " &c.

himself especially conspicuous by a display of arrogance which contrasts in a way hardly to be surpassed with the unaffected simplicity of the "Complete Angler." But the spleen, or may it not be called jealousy? so prominent in the "Northern Memoirs"<sup>1</sup> of this author,

<sup>1</sup> "Northern Memoirs, calculated for the meridian of Scotland; wherein most or all of the Cities, Citadels, Sea-ports, Castles, Forts, Fortresses, Rivers, and Rivulets, are compendiously described. Together with choice Collections of various Discoveries, Remarkable Observations, Theological Notions, Political Axioms, National Intrigues, Polemick Inferences, Contemplations, Speculations, and several curious and industrious Inspections, lineally drawn from Antiquaries and other noted and intelligible Persons of Honour and Eminency. To which is added the Contemplative and Practical Angler, by way of Diversion. With a Narrative of that dextrous and mysterious Art experimented in England, and perfected in more remote and solitary Parts of Scotland. By way of Dialogue. Writ in the Year 1658, but not till now made publick, by Richard Franck, Philanthropus. — Plures necat gula quam gladius. London. Printed for the Author. To be sold by Henry Mortclock, at the Phoenix, in St. Paul's Church-yard, 1694."

The book was reprinted, at Edinburgh, in 1821, and the anonymous preface, by Sir Walter Scott,

Richard Franck, a Cromwellian trooper and Independent, who even calls himself Philanthropus, was fully anticipated by Walton; for, again, in his Epistle to the Reader of the "Complete Angler" he says, in writing his discourse he has made himself a recreation of a recreation, and that it might prove so, and

was subscribed with the following verse from John Richards's Recommendatory Poem on Franck's Contemplative Angler:—

"No Fisher  
But a Well-Wisher  
To The Game."

The Editor, after expressing a wish that Walton had made this northern tour instead of Franck, says in his preface:—"Yet we must do our Author the justice to state, that he is as much superior to the excellent patriarch Isaac Walton, in the mystery of fly-fishing, as inferior to him in taste, feeling, and common sense. Franck's contests with salmon are painted to the life, and his directions to the angler are generally given with great judgment." The "Northern Memoirs" contain an interesting and amusing description of the Burbot. This, says Mr. Westwood, in his "Bibliotheca Piscatoria," is the first description of the Burbot by any English writer on angling. The original edition of the "Northern Memoirs" is very rare, and the reprint is now by no means common.

not read dull and tediously, he has mixed, not any scurrility, but some innocent, harmless mirth, of which he disallows a severe, sour-complexioned man to be a competent judge. The principal features which give the treatise its special charm are, the pleasing quaintness pervading the dialogues of which it is composed, the picturesque descriptions of English scenery by the river-side, and the simplicity and sweetness of character which is impressed on the work. The discourse is led off by Piscator, Venator, and Auceps, each of whom vies with the others in commending his sport: then it is left to Piscator and Venator, and the latter having been won over to the pleasures of angling becomes the pupil and disciple of Piscator. But the "Complete Angler" can alone tell its story: it is so well known moreover, and so prominent in every library, however small, that the following passage, which has been very frequently noticed on account of its great beauty, will be enough to remind the reader of the pleasure the book has afforded him:—

“But the Nightingale, another of my airy creatures, breathes such sweet loud music

out of her little instrumental throat, that it might make mankind to think miracles are not ceased. He that at midnight, when the very labourer sleeps securely, should hear, as I have very often, the clear airs, the sweet descants, the natural rising and falling, the doubling and redoubling of her voice, might well be lifted above earth, and say, 'Lord, what music hast thou provided for the Saints in Heaven, when thou affordest bad men such music on Earth!'" (The First Day, chap. i., Auceps.)

Before parting with the "Complete Angler" some notice must be taken of a few of the editions, now upwards of fifty in number, through which it has passed. Glancing at this part of the "Bibliotheca Piscatoria," the eye is at once attracted by the first and original edition of 1653.<sup>1</sup> Then passing over the three following editions we come to the standard edition, viz., the fifth and last that appeared in the lifetime of Walton: the second part of this, viz., "Instructions how to Angle for a Trout or Grayling in a clear

<sup>1</sup> Mr. Elliot Stock has published a *facsimile* of this edition.

stream," was contributed by Charles Cotton, the intimate friend and brother-angler of Walton; and the third part, consisting of "The Experienc'd Angler," was the work of Colonel Robert Venables, a rather remarkable soldier, whose book just mentioned called forth from Walton very great eulogium. The fifth edition, when containing these three parts, bears the title of "The Universal Angler;" but the reprints of it only contain the treatises of Walton and Cotton. No edition contrasts more with the diminutive 48mo. (1825 and 1826) of Pickering than his magnificent imperial 8vo. (1835-6), in two volumes. The "Bibliographical Preface" and "Waltonian Library," together with much other interesting matter, incorporated with the American reprint so ably edited by Dr. Bethune in 1847, have rendered this an especial favourite. Only one more edition can be noticed: Major's 4th (London, 1844), stands out in high relief: the objectionable Introductory Essay alone need be rejected; for "in other respects," says no less an authority than Mr. Westwood, in his "Chronicle of the Compleat Angler," "the Volume approaches more

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nearly to our ideal of an edition consistent in all its parts, than any of its predecessors or successors." The exquisite engravings of Fish, cut on the wood by John and Mason Jackson, and drawn on the blocks by Alexander Fussell from the originals painted by A. Cooper and W. Smith, have the force and colour of paintings, while the engravings on steel by J. T. Willmore, from paintings by John Absolon, have called forth universal admiration; but the surpassing loveliness of the vignettes, engraved by the Jacksons from Creswick's drawings of scenery on the banks of the Lea, deserves yet greater praise: sunshine, the passing cloud, the stillness of a sheltered spot, the motion of the trees just stirred by the softest wind, the rippling stream, which almost bears the sound of flowing water to the ear, and the water-plants bending to the gentle current, are all present in these beautiful woodcuts. The various phases and mutations of Walton's great work have been treated of, in "The Chronicle of the Compleat Angler" (London, 1864), by Mr. Westwood, as no one else could treat of them, unless, to speak in Waltonian language, Izaak

were again alive to do it. The concluding passage of this bibliographical record will give some idea of Mr. Westwood's literary attainments, and will show how at home he is in writing about a subject with which he is so much in love :—

“ Here our task ends—the ultimate milestone on the long road of more than two hundred years being reached at last. Through our window, as we write these closing lines, streams cheerily (and with a shimmer of young leaves and buzzing of insect wings), the May sunshine—that sunshine that, of yore, gladdened Piscator on his way through the Leaside meadows to his sport at matin-song, and that broods, we are fain to believe, with a softened radiance now, on his honoured grave in the grey pile of Winchester. Peace be to his ashes !—for his fame we have no fear ; the bygone centuries have given their consecration to his work, the centuries to come will ratify that consecration anew. How much of good and great the future may have in store for it, it is not our province to predict. Suffice it that looking up to the shelves of our Angling Library, and to the *Fifty-three* several



editions chronicled in these pages, we must say already for the Father of Fishermen, what he were too modest to say for himself could he return amongst us—

‘ Si monumentum requiris,  
Circumspice ! ’ ”

There appears to be no poetical treatise on the gentle craft of earlier date than Dennys's "Secrets of Angling." Some think that these verses have never been surpassed by those of any other angling poet. Beloe, in his "Anecdotes of Literature and Scarce Books," says:—"Perhaps there does not exist in the circle of English literature a rarer book than this." It was first printed for Roger Jackson in 1613, under the title, "The Secrets of Angling: Teaching, The Choicest Tools, Baits & Seasons, for the taking of any Fish in Pond or River: practised & familiarly opened in three Books. By J. D. Esquire." Whatever doubts may have existed about the name of the author are now removed by the discovery of the entry of the book in the Stationers' Register, wherein John Dennys is named as the author. But who this Dennys certainly was is still unsettled. There was a

well-known Gloucestershire family of that name, and there was a member of that family by name John, son of Hugh Dennys by Katherine Trye: he died and was buried at Pucklechurch, in 1609. Roger Jackson, for whom the first edition of 1613 was printed, says, in his dedicatory letter, that the poem was sent to him to be printed after (and may it not be presumed shortly after?) the death of the author. John Dennys, just mentioned as son of Hugh Dennys, is supposed to be the same person as John Dennys, the author of the "Secrets of Angling." "The Fisherman's Magazine," and "Notes and Queries,"<sup>1</sup> contain much that is interesting about the Dennys pedigree, and the editions of the "Secrets of Angling." There are four edi-

<sup>1</sup> Only nineteen numbers of the "Fisherman's Magazine," which consists of two volumes, were published: the first number appeared in April, 1864, the last in October, 1865. See especially Mr. Westwood's letters in the numbers for July and September, 1865. See also the following numbers of "Notes and Queries," 30th November, 1867, 28th December, 1867, 31st July, 1869 (this announces the discovery of the date of the third edition, viz. 1630), and 28th August, 1869.

tions. Copies of the first edition are extremely rare, so rare indeed that Mr. Arber in his preface to the reprint of it in the first volume of the "English Garner" (London, 1877), says only two copies of the first edition are known to exist; one is in the Bodleian and the other was in the collection of the late Mr. Henry Huth, who lent his copy to Mr. Arber for the purpose of his reprint. The date of the second edition is conjectured to be about 1620, and in this edition the work is described as being augmented with many approved experiments. The editor was William Lauson, whose comments are also reprinted in Mr. Arber's "English Garner." No one can read Lauson's address to the reader without being struck by the remarks to which this editor has given happy expression. The poem is divided into three books, which treat very fully of everything appertaining to the sport: it is in the first book that "The Antiquity of Angling" is noticed, while some of the verses of the third are devoted to "the twelve virtues and qualities which ought to be in every Angler." Izaak Walton says there can be no doubt "but that Angling is an art,

and an art worth your learning: the question is rather whether you be capable of learning it. For angling is somewhat like poetry, men are to be born so."—"Complete Angler," pt. i., cap. 1. Dennys was both poet and angler born; his verses are admired and bespeak a natural love of the art whose praises he so quaintly sings. The treatise on angling contained in "The Pleasures of Princes; or, Good Men's Recreations" (4to., London, 1614, and other editions), is said to have been rendered into prose from Dennys's "Secrets of Angling," and is to be found in Markham's work about to be noticed.

Gervase Markham (1566<sup>1</sup>-1637) was descended from a very ancient and distinguished Nottinghamshire family, whose lineage can be traced to a period anterior to the Norman Conquest. Gervase did his share in adding fame to a famous name. As a soldier he stood prominent in the army of Charles I.; as a linguist his knowledge was considerable,

<sup>1</sup> The exact year of his birth is not known. Dr. Grosart, in his work noticed further on, was the first to announce the death-date.

since he was familiar with the ancient and three or four modern languages; but his culture did not end here, for as an author both of prose and poetry he left behind a name that is never likely to be forgotten. His works on husbandry, horsemanship, and sporting—including angling, count among his chief publications. It is his nephew Ralph, son of his sister Gertrude, by Sir Thomas Sadleir, whom Izaak Walton, through Venator, speaks of as the owner of the pack of otter-dogs Venator was to meet upon Amwell-Hill. The Memorial Introduction, by the Rev. Dr. Grosart, to two of Markham's poems contained in the second volume of Dr. Grosart's "Miscellanies of the Fuller Worthies' Library" (printed for private circulation, 1871), comprises a most interesting account of Gervase Markham. It is from Dr. Grosart's account that these few particulars have been drawn. The name of Gervase Markham is connected with more than one book containing precepts for fishermen; of these treatises on angling the most noteworthy is to be found in his "Country Contentments: or, The Husbandman's Recreations," and, according to the sixth edi-

tion (1649) of this work, bears the title:—  
“The whole Art of Angling; as it was written in a small Treatise in Rime, and now for the better understanding of the Reader, put into Prose, and adorned and enlarged.” The treatise in “rime” referred to is probably Dennys’s “Secrets of Angling.” Some idea of the style of writing contained in Markham’s publication may be gained from the opening passage, which is in these words:—

“Since Pleasure is a Rapture, or power in this last Age, stolne into the hearts of men, and there lodged up with such a carefull guard and attendance, that nothing is more supreme, or ruleth with greater strength in their affections, and since all are now become the sonnes of Pleasure, and every good is measured by the delight it produceth: what worke unto men can be more thankfull then the Discourse of that pleasure which is most comely, most honest, and giveth the most liberty to Divine Meditation? and that without all question is the Art of Angling, which having ever bin most hurtlesly necessary, hath bin the Sport or Recreation of God’s Saints, of most holy Fathers, and of many worthy and Reverend

Divines, both dead, and at this time breathing."

The qualifications necessary for an angler, according to this curious old book, are very numerous. "A skilful angler," it is said, "ought to bee a generall scholler, and seene in all the Liberrall Sciences, as a Gramarian" he ought "to know how either to Write or Discourse of his Art in true and fitting termes, either without affectation or rudenes. He should have sweetness of speech . . . strength of arguments . . . knowledge in the Sunne, Moone, and Starres . . . Hee should bee a good knower of Countries . . . Hee should have knowledge in proportions of all sorts, whether Circular, Square, or Diametricall . . . He must also have the perfect Art of numbring . . . Hee should not be unskilfull in Musick, that whensoever either melancholly, heaviness of his thought, or the perturbations of his owne fancies stirreth up sadnesse in him, hee may remove the same with some godly Hymne or Antheme, of which *David* gives him ample examples." Expectation, brotherly love, patience, and humility should all find place in his heart. "Then he must be

strong and valient, neither to be amazed with Stormes nor affrighted with Thunder ;” and there are many other qualities mentioned in “The Whole Art of Angling” as being also necessary to the fisherman.

Thomas Barker, another early contributor to the Angling Library, professed no acquaintance with literature, on the contrary, he says in his Epistle to the Reader in the first edition of his book :—“ I doe crave pardon for not writing Scholler like :” his little tract, however, is both original and, according to his Dedicatory Epistle in the edition called the second, the result of his “own experience and practise.” Barker himself has given us some account of his life : he says in the letter just mentioned, and it should be observed that the so-called second edition of his book was published in 1657, that he was then grown old and that he had been gathering his experience for “threescore yeares,” also that he was born and educated at “*Bracemeale* in the Liberty of *Salop*, being a Freeman and Burgesse of the same City. If any noble or gentle Angler,” he continues, “of what de-



gree soever he be, have a mind to discourse of any of these wayes and experiments, I live in *Henry* the 7th's Gifts, the next doore to the Gatehouse in *Westm.* my name is *Barker*, where I shall be ready, as long as please God, to satisfie them, and maintain my art, during life, which is not like to be long." His calling seems to have been that of a cook, for he says in the body of the second edition of his work: "I have been admitted into the most Ambassadors kitchens that have come into England this forty years, and do wait on them still at the Lord Protector's charge, and I am paid duly for it:" moreover, he is very particular in his directions about the cookery of fish. Izaak Walton praises this little work, and owns that he took his directions for fly-fishing from it. The so-called second edition, 1657, is styled "*Barker's Delight; or, the Art of Angling.* Wherein are discovered many rare secrets very necessary to be known by all that delight in that Recreation, both for catching the Fish, and dressing thereof." It is hardly necessary to say that "*Barker's Delight*" is mentioned on

account of its originality and quaintness, some idea of which may be got from the following passage:—

“Under favour I will complement and put a case to your Honour. I met with a man, and upon our discourse he fell out with me, having a good weapon, but neither stomach nor skil; I say this man may come home by Weeping cross, I will cause the Clerk to toll his knell. It is the very like case to the Gentleman Angler that goeth to the River for his pleasure: this Angler hath neither judgement nor experience, he may come home light laden at his leisure.”

Three editions of the work were published: the first edition is dated 1651, another 1653, and the so-called second edition, 1657 and 1659, all of which have been reprinted, but both originals and reprints are rare.

Two or three examples of angling spiritualized are given in lists of Angling Books: for instance, there is a book, which is said to be unique, by Samuel Gardiner, for only one copy, which was in the collection of the late Mr. Henry Huth, appears to be

known of. An account of it is to be found in Hone's "Year Book," and Mr. Westwood devotes some space to it in his "Bibliotheca Piscatoria." According to Westwood it is called "A Booke of Angling or Fishing; wherein is showed, by conference with Scriptures, the agreement between the Fisherman, Fishes, and Fishing of both Natures, Temporall and Spirituall. By Samuel Gardiner, Doctor of Divinitie." Its date is 1606, and it is dedicated to Sir Henrie Gaudie, Sir Miles Corbet, Sir Hammond Le Strange, and Sir Henry Spellman, Knights, "my verie kind friends." Robert Boyle (1627-1691), a well-known author, wrote "Occasional Reflections upon Several Subjects," which was first printed in 1665, and there is a reprint of the book by Masson, Oxford, 1848. The fourth section treats of "Angling improv'd to Spiritual Uses," and we are told, in the advertisement touching this section, that the author really was a great lover of angling, and frequently diverted himself with the sport. Sir William Waller (1600-1669) left behind him a work said to be written in the best style of the period to which it belongs. The title is,

“ Divine meditations upon several occasions : With a daily Directory.” Meditation 20 is on Fishing. The book, which was not printed until twelve years after Waller’s death, was reprinted in 1839, and to this reprint is prefixed an account of the author. It is noteworthy that Waller, who was a somewhat distinguished soldier and also an active statesman, evidently took particular delight in his library, as appears in his fifth Meditation, headed “ upon the contentment I have in my books and study.”

That class of poetry to which “ Piscatory Eclogues” belong, has been the subject of some criticism. Sannazarius, a distinguished Italian poet of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, whose “ Piscatory Eclogues” in Latin have received much approbation, led the way in this kind of verse. In our own language we have the “ Piscatory Eclogues” of Phineas Fletcher (1584-1650), who is better known, however, for his “ Purple Island;” and Moses Browne, to whom the revival of the “ Complete Angler” is partly due, he having edited, in 1750, the first edition published after Walton’s death, and two other

editions, also wrote "Eclogues" of the same description.

Neither Shakespeare, Michael Drayton, Quarles, Bunyan, nor Pope were silent on the art of angling. Thomson (1700-1748) must have been fond of the sport, for the following lines in "Spring" could only have been written by a genuine fly-fisher :—

"Just in the dubious point—where with the pool  
Is mixed the trembling stream, or where it boils  
Around the stone, or from the hollowed bank  
Reverted plays in undulating flow,  
There throw, nice-judging, the delusive fly;  
And as you lead it round in artful curve,  
With eye attentive mark the springing game."

Gay (1688-1732) was no doubt an angler, and in the concluding lines of the first canto of his "Rural Sports," he tells us what kind of fisherman he was. He says :—

"I never wander where the bord'ring reeds  
O'erlook the muddy stream, whose tangling weeds  
Perplex the fisher ; I, nor chuse to bear  
The thievish nightly net, nor barbed spear ;  
Nor drain I ponds the golden carp to take,  
Nor trowle for pikes, dispeoplors of the lake.  
Around the steel no tortur'd worm shall twine,  
No blood of living insect stain my line ;

Let me, less cruel, cast the feather'd hook,  
 With pliant rod athwart the pebbled brook,  
 Silent along the mazy margin stray,  
 And with the fur-wrought fly delude the prey."

The first canto is devoted to angling, but the poet says :—

" 'Tis not that rural sports alone invite,  
 But all the grateful country breathes delight."

The following lines, in the same poem, are especial favourites with all fishermen :—

" Oft have I seen a skilful angler try  
 The various colours of the treach'rous fly;  
 When he with fruitless pain hath skim'd the brook,  
 And the coy fish rejects the skipping hook,  
 He shakes the boughs that on the margin grow,  
 Which o'er the stream a waving forest throw;  
 When if an insect fall (his certain guide),  
 He gently takes him from the whirling tide;  
 Examines well his form with curious eyes,  
 His gaudy vest, his wings, his horns, and size.  
 Then round his hook the chosen fur he winds,  
 And on the back a speckled feather binds,  
 So just the colours shine thro' every part,  
 That nature seems to live again in art."

We find in the first volume (1721<sup>1</sup>) of the

<sup>1</sup> This is the fourth edition; but no doubt the other editions also contain "Piscatio."

“Musarum Anglicanarum Analecta,” some verses called “Piscatio,” which are signed Simon Ford, S.T.P., and are dedicated to Archbishop Sheldon who, according to the poem, was in his day an angler. But the standard book of poetry for the fisherman is Mr. Joseph Crawhall’s “Collection of Right Merrie Garlands for North Country Anglers.” (Newcastle-on-Tyne, 1864.) These “Garlands” are the delight of every angler, and the favour with which Mr. Crawhall’s book, so nicely got up, has been received, is well deserved.

Sir Humphrey Davy, during some months of a severe and dangerous illness, whiled away the time by composing his “Salmonia; or Days of Fly-Fishing” (1st ed., 1828), taking for his model the “Complete Angler” of Izaak Walton; and the work is accordingly thrown into a series of conversations, an interesting feature of which is the account they contain of the habits of fishes belonging to the genus *salmo*. Whatever the faults of the book may be, it is pleasanter to commend than to criticise; and it should be remembered that the favourable notice of this work that appeared in the “Quarterly Review” (July and Oc-

tober, 1828), shortly after the publication of the first edition, is attributed to Sir Walter Scott; also that Cuvier wrote in flattering terms of "Salmonia."

"Maxims and Hints for an Angler, and Miseries of Fishing," &c., by Richard Penn, a descendant of the founder of Pennsylvania, is a very practical and humorous book, which went through four editions (1833, 1839, 1842, and 1855), and which contains illustrations, contributed by eminent artists, quite in harmony with the letter-press. The "Postscript" to the "Maxims and Hints," continued after the Miseries, under the title "More Miseries," is a most amusing angling story. An idea of this entertaining little work may be formed from the following maxims and miseries:—

" MAXIM XXVII.

"If, during your walks by the river-side, you have marked any good fish, it is fair to presume that other persons have marked them also. Suppose the case of two well-known fish, one of them (which I will call A.) lying above a certain bridge, the other (which I will call B.) lying below the bridge. Suppose,



further, that you have just caught B., and that some curious and cunning friend should say to you, in a careless way, 'Where did you take that fine fish?' a finished fisherman would advise you to tell your inquiring friend that you had taken your fish just *above* the bridge, describing, as the scene of action, the spot which, in truth, you know to be still occupied by the other fish, A. Your friend would then fish no more for A., supposing that to be the fish which you have caught; and whilst he innocently resumes his operations below the bridge, where he falsely imagines B. still to be, A. is left quietly for you, if you can catch him."

" MISERIE VI.

" Taking out with you as your aide-de-camp an unsophisticated lad from the neighbouring village, who laughs at you when you miss hooking a fish rising at a fly, and says, with a grin, 'You can't vasten 'em as my vather does.' "

" XXXI.

" Telling a long story after dinner, tending to show (with full particulars of time and

place) how that, under very difficult circumstances, and notwithstanding very great skill on your part, your tackle had been that morning broken and carried away by a very large fish; and then having the identical fly, lost by you on that occasion, returned to you by one of your party, who found it in the mouth of a trout, caught by him, about an hour after your disaster, on the very spot so accurately described by you—the said very large fish being, after all, a very small one.”

Angling essays have played no small part in Magazines and Reviews. Still fresh in the memory of many are the numerous articles poured forth with remarkable exuberance in “Blackwood’s Magazine,” by Christopher North (John Wilson, 1785-1854), “Christopher in his Sporting Jacket,” and “Noctes Ambrosianae,” containing many an angling episode. The essay by Sir Walter Scott, in the “Quarterly Review” (July and October, 1828), on “Salmonia,” just now mentioned, is another capital example, there being a freshness, humour, and goodwill about it which must commend it to every reader. Mr. H. R. Francis, one of the writers in the

“Cambridge Essays,” produced in that periodical, in 1856, “The Fly-Fisher and his Library,” being a review of angling literature. Again, under “Trout and Trout-Fishing,” there appeared in the “Quarterly Review” for October, 1875, another excellent contribution, which also treats of angling books. But among all essays on the sport can there be found a better example than one contained in the September number (1858) of “Fraser’s Magazine?” The paper referred to is called “Chalk-Stream Studies, by a Minute Philosopher” — the minute philosopher being Charles Kingsley. Here it is that we have, perhaps, the best description ever written of sportsman-like fishing, where all is “peaceful, graceful, complete English country life.” This chapter could not be brought to a close with a prettier passage than the following, which is one of Kingsley’s pictures of English riverscenery:—

“Let the Londoner have his six weeks every year among crag and heather, and return with lungs expanded and muscles braced to his nine months’ prison. The countryman, who needs no such change of air and

scene, will prefer more homelike, though more homely pleasures. Dearer to him than wild cataracts or Alpine glens are the still, hidden streams which Bewick has immortalized in his vignettes, and Creswick in his pictures; the long glassy shadow, paved with yellow gravel, where he wades up between low walls of fern-fringed rock, between nut, and oak, and alder, to the low bar over which the stream comes swirling and dimpling, as the water-ousel flits piping before him, and the murmur of the ringdove comes soft and sleepy through the wood. There, as he wades, he sees a hundred sights, and hears a hundred tones, which are hidden from the traveller on the dusty highway above. The traveller fancies that he has seen the country. So he has; the outside of it, at least: but the angler only sees the inside. The angler only is brought close face to face with the flower, and bird, and insect life of the rich river banks, the only part of the landscape where the hand of man has never interfered, and the only part in general which never feels the drought of summer, 'the trees planted by the water-side, whose leaf shall not wither.'"



## CHAPTER IV.

### TEXT-BOOKS OF THE DAY, GUIDES, A PERIODICAL, NEWSPAPERS.

**T**HIS chapter comprises a concise account of the most prominent text-books of the day on angling, and mentions some guides to fishing resorts, an angling periodical, and one or two newspapers, wherein particular attention is paid to the sport. Only a few books are noticed, and very little is said about these, as not every one would care for a copious list or details of text-books. A good treatise teaching every branch of fresh-water fishing is always a popular book. Angling for salmon, for trout, and pike-fishing are the chief branches of the art; while sea-fishing fills up many an hour which would be otherwise idly spent, and affords

amusement even to the mere sea-side visitor. Guides to fishing stations are often indispensable to the angler ; and all that is latest and newest is to be gathered from periodicals and newspapers. The object, then, of the present chapter is to recommend such works as will meet the requirements of most practical fishermen. In making a selection, such works have been chosen as have received general approbation ; but it must not be supposed that many other excellent books not mentioned are left unnoticed for any other reason than a desire to be brief.

#### FRESH-WATER FISHING.

Under the title "A Book on Angling," by Francis Francis, we have a very comprehensive treatise on the art of angling in all its branches. Mr. Francis is not only a well-known author, but also a well-known practical fisherman of great experience. No book so well answers the angler's purpose as the one just mentioned, which has already passed through five editions. Its size—a large, thick octavo—contrasts with that of its predecessor, "A Hand-book of Angling," by Ephemera

(Edward Fitzgibbon), of "Bell's Life," the latter being an admirable little book, which also treats generally of the art, and is still in print, though the last edition published in the lifetime of the author, who died in 1857, bears the rather ancient date of 1853.<sup>1</sup> Mr. Manley's work, "Notes on Fish and Fishing," is full of useful and practical information, and ought to be in the hands of every fisherman. Mr. Manley is one of our leading authorities on angling literature. Mr. Keene's exhaustive treatise, "The Practical Fisherman," cannot be too highly spoken of. It contains some of the most beautiful drawings of fish ever published.

It might be supposed that there has appeared among us many a text-book intended entirely for the salmon-fisherman, who practises his art throughout the land with rod and line; yet, strange to say, we can only lay

<sup>1</sup> Besides writing this and the "Book of the Salmon," about to be noticed, Ephemera edited Walton and Cotton's "Complete Angler," in 1853 (London), which edition was reprinted in 1854 and 1859, and contains notes and appendices giving Ephemera's directions for the practice of the sport.

claim to one such work. In these days, when almost every month brings with it some new publication on angling, it may be said that the book in question is not of modern date, for it was published so long ago as 1850, since when much has been discovered about the natural history of the salmon, and something new in the art of angling may also have been brought to light. Unfortunately, it is more than difficult to obtain a copy of Ephemera's "Book of the Salmon," our only treatise answering the description just now given.

Ephemera—that is, Edward Fitzgibbon—was a most dexterous fisherman. His work is the more valuable as he was chiefly indebted for what he wrote on the nature and culture of the most important of all our fishes to Mr. Andrew Young, a great authority on the natural history of the salmon and the management of salmon fisheries. The book is divided into two parts, the first part containing the theory, principles, and practice of fly-fishing for salmon, and lists of salmon-flies; the second a natural history of the fish, a description of its habits, and how to breed it artificially.



The standard book for the fly-fisher who angles for trout and grayling is Ronalds's "Fly-fisher's Entomology," a work chiefly given up to some account of the natural history of those flies with which anglers have to make it their business to be acquainted, and the faithful representation of such insects. It is most beautifully illustrated with pictures of natural flies painted to the life, and their artificial resemblances in feathers and other materials. No book in the whole of the "Bibliotheca Piscatoria" can be compared to it in these respects: it is a work every fly-fisher should possess; and the best proof of the esteem in which it is held is, that new editions still continue to appear, though it was first published nearly half a century ago. Another very popular and useful work is the "Practical Angler," by W. C. Stewart, which teaches the art of trout-fishing more particularly applied to clear water, the last edition issued under the author's personal correction being the fourth (Edinburgh, 1861), but new editions continue to be produced. Stewart was the great advocate of fishing up stream.

The class of angling book most wanted is

that affording sound instruction in unaffected language, and at the same time made interesting by an intermixture of entertaining and appropriate matter. It is this Mr. Cholmondeley-Pennell has shown such capability for in "The Book of the Pike," a book in great request before Mr. Pennell so effectually supplied the want that existed; for he points out, in his preface, that "excepting two *brochures*, one of Nobbs, *temp.* 1682, and another by Salter of 1820, and a modern compilation, entitled, 'Olter's Guide to Spinning,' &c., pp. 44, *no English book has ever been devoted exclusively to Pike-fishing.*" Mr. Cholmondeley-Pennell's instructive and interesting work treats of the history of the pike and of pike-fishing, and comprises a chapter on spinning for trout in lakes and rivers. It also contains an appendix, giving numerous receipts for cooking pike, and a list of waters in which this fish may be angled for. The first publication appeared in 1865, since when there have been two more editions.

#### SEA-FISHING.

Sea-fishing as a sport is becoming more

and more popular every day. We have but one or two books dealing with this subject alone. One of them occupies a foremost place in the piscatorial library. The work in question is "The Sea-Fisherman," by J. C. Wilcocks, who tells us, in his preface to the first edition, that his experience extends over more than a quarter of a century, and that he has availed himself of the knowledge of the professional craftsmen in whose company he has been when afloat on the fishing-grounds of England and Guernsey. The book comprises an account of the chief methods of hook and line-fishing in the British and other seas. It gives information on nets, boats, and boating, and contains illustrations of tackle and gear of all kinds. The third edition (Longmans, 1875), is the last. "Sea-Fishing as a Sport," is another example; but Mr. L. J. H. Young, the author, does not pretend to treat the subject so fully as Mr. Wilcocks has. W. B. Lord's neatly written tract, "Sea Fish, and how to Catch Them," in which even less is attempted than in Mr. Young's little treatise, is the more popular work of the two. Even if Hearder's "Catalogue of Sea and

River Tackle " is only a trade publication, it is yet deserving of notice, for, in addition to being a useful list, it gives a short account of sea-fishing by these well-known practical manufacturers at Plymouth.

#### GUIDES.

There is issued annually from "The Field" office, "The Angler's Diary," which is a gazetteer of the rivers and lakes of the world. It contains an alphabetical list of the rivers of England, Ireland, Scotland, and Wales, and shows the railway stations: it also comprises full particulars of the close seasons and angling licenses throughout the United Kingdom. "The Angler's Diary" supplies an amount of information that especially meets the requirements of all travelling fishermen. But no one who makes an angling tour through Scotland would do so without Mr. Lyall's "Sportsman's and Tourist's Guide," for this excellent monthly publication gives a full account of the Scotch rivers and lochs, which are also described very clearly on a capital angling map belonging to the book, and pro-

vides all that the fisherman in Scotland can want to know about salmon-fishings, hotels, fishings to be let or sold, railways, railway trains, steamers, and coaches. Another very useful work is "The Rail and the Rod; or Tourist-Angler's Guide," by Greville F. (Barnes), piscatorial correspondent to "The Field." Six numbers have already appeared, the first three being limited to waters and quarters around London on (1) the Great Eastern Railway, (2) the Great Western, and (3) the South-Western, while the fishing resorts treated of in No. 4 are on the South-Eastern Railway, and 5 and 6 are devoted to many of the angling stations on the Great Eastern, London and North-Western, Midland, and Great Northern lines. Like Mr. Lyall's work, "The Rail and the Rod" is topographic in a general as well as in an angling sense. Mr. J. P. Wheeldon has done the Thames and Lea fishermen good service in publishing his "Angling Resorts near London" (Trübner and Co., 1878). His descriptions are as faithful as minute, and display a familiar acquaintance with our angling country near the metropolis.

## A PERIODICAL, NEWSPAPERS.

There is only one periodical, in the ordinary sense of the word, which has for its main object all that relates to angling. It is to be regretted that the publication of this is not likely to be continued. "The Angler's Notebook and Naturalist's Record," the magazine alluded to, is published by Messrs. Satchell, and, as we are told in the introductory number, its "objects are to afford information, both literary and practical; to preserve notes and observations of fishermen and naturalists; to discuss moot points of angling, woodcraft, bird, beast, and insect life; to collect every fact that bears on natural history and its folklore, and on sport, all the world over, but especially in our own islands." Among its contributors are Professor Skeat, William Henderson, Thomas Westwood, Joseph Crawhall, T. Q. Couch, and J. W. Douglas; and it contains some illustrations. Let us hope to see the first series followed by an unbroken succession of numbers containing as much angling lore as the first twelve, and written in the same easy and appropriate

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style. "The Fishing Gazette" is a weekly newspaper, intended entirely for fishermen. Their best thanks are more than due to the editor, who has well maintained his paper, and now, indeed, firmly established it as a permanent journal.<sup>1</sup> Everything concerning fish and fishing is to be found in its columns. With this and "Bell's Life," "The Field," and "Land and Water," the three principal sporting newspapers of the day, no one can be at a loss for information about all that is going on among river, lake, and sea fishermen.

<sup>1</sup> See especially No. 222, vol. v., July 23rd, 1881, a capital number for the holidays.



## CHAPTER V.

### BOOKS ON ICHTHYOLOGY, FISHERIES, PISCICULTURE, AND FISHERY LAWS.

**E**VERY fisherman should take some interest in the study of fishes, in our fisheries, pisciculture, and laws; for which reason a few remarks on one or two books treating of these subjects will not be out of place in a work like the present.

The greatest living authority on the natural history of fishes is Dr. Günther, whose recent learned publication has removed every difficulty in the way of pointing to a book that will enable its readers to acquire a sound and useful knowledge of ichthyology. The object of the work alluded to, "An Introduction to the Study of Fishes,"<sup>1</sup> as told in the preface, "is to give in a concise form an

<sup>1</sup> Published by A. and C. Black, Edinburgh, 1880.



account of the principal facts relating to the structure, classification, and life-history of fishes. It is intended to meet the requirements of those who are desirous of studying the elements of ichthyology; to serve as a book of reference to zoologists generally; and, finally, to supply those who, like travelers, have frequent opportunities of observing fishes, with a ready means of obtaining information." Dr. Günther says that the only publication which has hitherto partly satisfied such requirements is an article on "Ichthyology" which appeared some years ago in the "Encyclopaedia Britannica;" and, according to Dr. Günther, "The Study of Fishes" is a book that, for the first time, treats of the geographical distribution of fishes in a general and comprehensive manner.

Besides Dr. Günther's work, there are two treatises on British fishes that must not be overlooked, for, without doubt, they are important works on this branch of natural history. Yarrell's well-known treatise<sup>1</sup> is scientific as well as replete with entertaining

<sup>1</sup> "A History of British Fishes," by W. Yarrell, third edition. Van Voorst, London, 1859.

matter, while Couch's four volumes,<sup>1</sup> illustrated throughout with coloured plates of the fish described, form a work which every ichthyologist should possess. With the assistance of the illustrations contained in "Couch" any of our fishes may be identified at a glance.

Mr. Lambton Young's "Sea-fishing as a Sport," mentioned in the previous chapter, gives an interesting historical sketch of British fisheries: it does not appear, however, that we have any book devoted entirely to the history of these sources of employment; but "Sea and Salmon Fisheries,"<sup>2</sup> part of the series, "British Industries," edited by G. Phillips Bevan, comprises a good popular account of the present condition of our fisheries; both Mr. Holdsworth, the author of "Sea Fisheries," and Mr. Young, who contributed

<sup>1</sup> "A History of the Fishes of the British Islands," by J. Couch, London, 1860-5: there is a new edition (Bell and Sons, London,) on larger paper, but there is no alteration in the text or plates.

<sup>2</sup> "Sea Fisheries," by E. W. H. Holdsworth; "Salmon Fisheries," by Archibald Young, Commissioner of Scotch Salmon Fisheries. London, Stanford, 1877.

“Salmon Fisheries,” being authorities on the subjects they handle so well in their work. Under the first heading are described the various modes of sea-fishing and English, Scotch, Manx, and Irish fisheries; attention is directed to the two great agencies that affect the large supplies of fish-food required in every market throughout the kingdom. Ice secures preservation, the railway, ready and rapid transport. The article “Salmon Fisheries” cannot but meet with approval, as in it are collected together, concisely and in a very readable form, all the leading facts concerning our salmon fisheries.

Fish-culture has always been attended with success in this country, and is now attracting more and more notice every year. Before quick modes of locomotion were invented, a good stock of freshwater fish was the pride of many a country gentleman. It is needless to say how necessary a ready supply of freshwater fish was to monasteries and convents in past times. Roger North, in 1713, published his “Discourse on Fish and Fish-Ponds,” which is the principal English work of early date on fish-culture. The author,

who was evidently a practical pisciculturist, evinces, in this book, great interest in his favourite hobby. Not many years since, two works, remarkable for the clearness with which the author has expressed himself, came from the pen of one who has always been regarded as an authority on the culture of fish. The books referred to are Boccius's treatises on "The Management of Fresh-water Fish"<sup>1</sup> and "Fish in Rivers and Streams."<sup>2</sup> If neither are exhaustive, they both show, from experience gained by this zealous and capable pisciculturist, the utility of cultivating fresh-water fish even though they be of a coarse description. But the best of our modern books on "Fish-Culture," is Mr. Francis's work<sup>3</sup> written under that title; from

<sup>1</sup> "A Treatise on the Management of Fresh-water Fish, with a view to making them a source of Profit to Landed Proprietors," by Gottlieb Boccius. London, Van Voorst, 1841.

<sup>2</sup> "Fish in Rivers and Streams: a Treatise on the Production and Management of Fish in Fresh Waters by Artificial Spawning, Breeding, and Rearing: shewing also the Cause of the Depletion of all Rivers and Streams," by G. Boccius. Van Voorst, 1848.

<sup>3</sup> Fish-Culture: a Practical Guide to the Modern

this and "Fish Hatching,"<sup>1</sup> by the late Mr. Frank Buckland, whose name alone is sufficient recommendation, may be gathered a considerable amount of information relating to the science of pisciculture.

The law of private and public fisheries in the inland waters of England and Wales, and the Freshwater Fisheries Preservation Act (1878), are explained in a little volume of modern date written by Mr. Willis Bund, who is learned in fishery law.<sup>2</sup> Here may be found as much as most anglers in England and Wales can want to know of the protection the law affords both for the preservation of freshwater fish and to the owners of fisheries and fishery rights. No one can help being struck by the following observations of Mr.

System of Breeding and Rearing Fish," by Francis Francis. London, Routledge, 1863.

<sup>1</sup> Published by Tinsley Brothers, London, 1863.

<sup>2</sup> "A Handy Book of the Fishery Laws: containing the Law as to Private and Public Fisheries in the Inland Waters of England and Wales, and the Freshwater Fisheries Preservation Act, 1878, systematically arranged; with the Act, Decisions, Notes, and Forms," by George C. Oke, second edition by J. W. Willis Bund. London, Butterworths, 1878.

Bund on the limited right of fishery enjoyed by the public in our inland waters :—

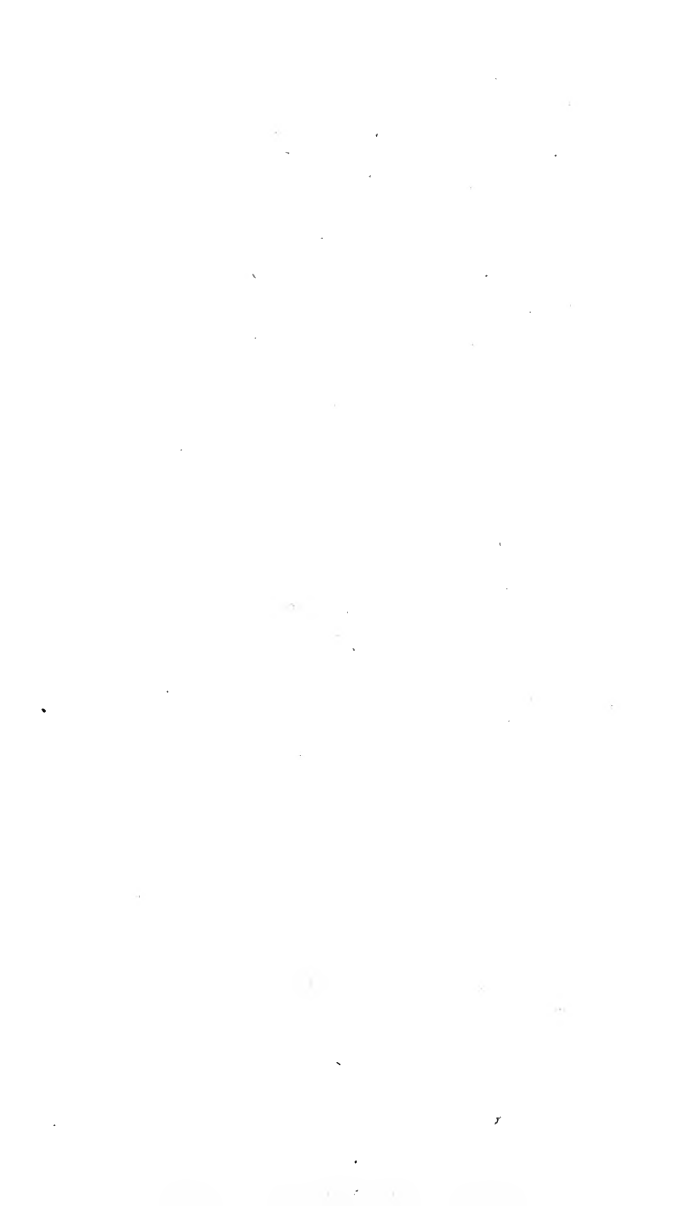
“From what has been said, it will be seen that although a public fishery may and does exist in law, yet it is only in a very few localities that the public have any right of fishing, and that in the majority of instances when persons angle they do so on sufferance, and are in law liable to be proceeded against ; and that even where the public have a right to fish it very often happens that the right is practically useless, as it can only be exercised from a boat, the public having no right on the banks. Every year the quantity of water in which the public are allowed to fish becomes less and less, from the owners withdrawing permission ; and in a few years’ time it will probably be the case that the public are confined to where they have a legal right. And it will then be seen how very small the extent of real public water is, and how difficult it is for the public to exercise their right over it.”

Not every reader would be interested in a review of legal books ; but it may be useful to notice that Mr. Young, in his treatise “Salmon

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Fisheries," already named, mentions the leading doctrines of the law affecting the salmon fisheries of the United Kingdom, and also gives a summary of the principal statutes in force and regulating these fisheries at the date of the publication of his work.









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