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THE
Art of ANGLING

Improved, in all its parts, Especially

FLY-FISHING:

CONTAINING

A particular Account of the several Sorts of Fresh-
Water FISH, with their most proper BAITS.

ALSO

The Names, Colours, and Seasons of all the most
Useful FLIES.

With Directions for making each FLY Artificially
In the most Exact manner, &c.

The whole Interspers'd with many Curious and
Uncommon Observations.

BY

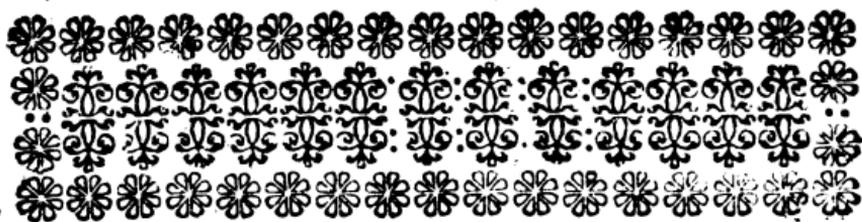
RICHARD BOWLKER.

Et piscem tremula Salientem ducere Seta. Mart :

WORCESTER:

Printed by M. Olivers, in High-Street.





To the Right HONOURABLE
HENRY ARTHUR LORD HERBERT,
OF
CHIRBURT
Earl of *POWIS*,
AND
Viscount *LUDLOW*.

My LORD,

IT is with the greatest Submission,
that I presume to lay this little
Treatise of ANGLING at *Your Lordship's*
Feet: The Observations contained in it
are such as I have been enabled to make
chiefly by *Your Lordship's* Indulgence,
on the Banks of those happy Streams
which Water *Your Demefnes* belong-

The Dedication

ing to *Oakley Park*: And the only Excuse I can offer for prefixing so great a Name to so humble an Essay, is *Your* well known Inclination and Propensity to Encourage any, even the meanest Productions of Art. That *You* may long Enjoy those Honours which have been Confer'd on *Your* distinguish'd Merit by the Favour of *Your* Prince, and the united Suffrage of *Your* Country, is the Sincere and Ardent Wish of

My Lord,

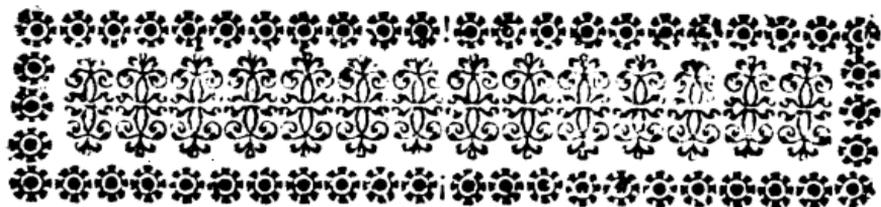
Your Lordship's

Most Obedient

And most Devoted

Humble Servant

Richard Bowlker.



THE
Art of ANGLING;
AND
Compleat Fly-Fisher.



ANGLING has always been deservedly reckon'd one of the most innocent and delightful Recreations of the Sportsman: It gives the-Mind a very agreeable and amusing Entertainment, and at the same time contributes not a little to the Health and Vigour of the Body, by the moderate and gentle Exercise it requires, as well as by the wholesome and refreshing Air that plays upon the Water. The Design of the following Sheets is to contribute what I can towards the Improvement and Perfection of this excellent Art, particularly of that delightful Branch of it Fly-Fishing; wherein the Reader may be assured that the Directions he will meet with are not the trite and common

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2 The Art of ANGLING.

mon ones frequently taken upon trust from others, and generally found unsuccessful upon Tryal; but they will be for the most part new and uncommon, founded upon repeated Observations of my own, and confirm'd by many Years Practicè and Experience in the Art. The manner in which I intend to treat this Subject will be this; after mentioning the Rivers (at least the chiefest of them) which are the Scenes of the Angler's Diversion, to describe the different Kinds of Fish their Inhabitants; their several Natures and Qualities; their Haunts and Places of Feeding and Retirement; the various kinds of Foods and Baits adapted to each particular kind of Fish, together with the most proper Times and Seasons of using them; and more especially the great Diversity of Flies which Nature produces for them, in a wonderful, yet regular Succession; with Directions for making the Artificial-Fly, and a particular account of the necessary Materials, as Feathers, Furrs, &c. requisite to make every sort of Fly in such manner as to have the nearest resemblance to the Natural.

The Number of our Rivers in England, are by some reckon'd to be Three Hundred and Twenty-five, most of the Principal of which are as follow :

Thames	Breton	Dove	Kennet
Severn	Calder	Dun	Lea
Trent	Cherwell	Dart	Line
Humber	Churner	Eden	Lavant
Medway	Chelmer	Eamon	Lon
Tweed	Coln	Evenlode	Lowther
Wye	Clun	Ex	Lug
Avon	Crouch	Frome	Mersey
Arc	Dee	Isis	Monnow
Arun	Derwent	Itchin	Nen
Blithe	Deben	Iddle	Nadder

Nyd	Ribble	Tine	Wey
Ouse	Rumney	Test	Waveney
Orwell	Stour	Teme	Witham
Onny	Swift	Thryn	Windrush
Parret	Stroud	Tees	Wash
Plim	Sow	Ver	Willey
Petterel	Sherburn	Usk	Warf
Rother	Salwarp	Ware	Youre
Reck	Swall	Wever	Yare
Rhea	Tame	Weland	
Roden	Tamer	Wensbeck	

THAMES the chief River of the Island, is compounded of two Rivers; Tame and Isis; the former rising in Buckinghamshire, the other about two Miles West of Cirencester in Gloucestershire; and uniting their Streams with their Names near Dorchester in Oxfordshire, make a fine beautiful River, which from thence is call'd by the above single Name of Thames; which flowing and journeying on through the several Counties of Berks, Buckingham, Middlesex, Surrey, Essex and Kent, joins the Medway in the very Mouth of the British Ocean.

SEVERN is also a large and beautiful River, which for the length of its Navigation, may rival or even exceed the former: It has its Rise in Plinlimmon-Hill in Montgomeryshire, and is capable of carrying large Boats and Barges in the same County. It washes in its Course the Walls of Shrewsbury, Worcester and Gloucester, and several other Places of less Distinction, and at last disembogues itself into the Bristol Channel about seven Miles below that City.

TRENT, so call'd from its producing thirty Kinds of Fish, or from its reception of thirty lesser Rivers, has its Fountain in Staffordshire, and flowing through the several Counties of Nottingham, Lincoln, Leicester and York, augmenteth the tur-

4 The Art of ANGLING

bulent River Humber, the most violent Current of all the Isle.

HUMBER is not properly a distinct River, as not having a Spring-Head of its own, but is rather the Mouth or Receptacle of divers other Rivers, especially the Derwent, Ouse, and Trent, here confluent and meeting together.

MEDWAY is a Kentish River, remarkable for harbouring the Royal Navy.

TWEED is a River on the North-East Bounds of England, dividing it from Scotland, on whose Banks stands the strong and memorable Town of Berwick.

WYE is a large and pleasant River which runs with a winding Course through the Counties of Brecknock, Hereford, Monmouth and Gloucester, and at last falls into the Bristol Channel. There is another River of the same Name in Dorsetshire (tho' differently spelt) upon the Mouth of which stands the Town of Weymouth, so call'd from its Situation. It is not unusual to have several Rivers call'd by the same Name, sometimes three or four; as is remarkable in the Names Avon, Stour, Ouse and some others, of which there are several so call'd in different parts of England.

THERE may possibly be some Rivers omitted in the proceeding Catalogue as considerable as many of those there set down: There are also innumerable Brooks and Rivulets (too many to be particularly taken notice of) that afford the Sportman as much Diversion as many of the larger Rivers. By this means England enjoys the Advantage of being better water'd than most Parts of the World; which greatly adds to the Fertility of its Soil, the Beauty of the Country, and by the great Plenty and Variety of Fish here produced, to the Delight and Convenience of Mankind. These I shall in the next Place proceed to describe.

And Compleat Fly-Fisher.

5

The Names of our Fresh-Water Fish are

Salmon	Barbel	Minnow or
Salmon Pinks	Chub or Bot-	Pink
or Last-springs	ling	Loach
Pike or Luce	Roach	Bulhead
Trout	Dace	Stickle-back or
Grayling	Gudgeon	Jack-sharp
Pearch	Ruff	Shad
Tench	Bleak	Lamprey
Carp	Charr	Lampern
Bream	Guinad	Crawfish
Flounder	Eel	

First of the SALMON; the Spawning time, and Seasons for Feed.

The Salmon is accounted the King of all Fresh-water-Fish; and always breeds in Rivers that have an immediate Communication to the Sea; yet so high or distant from it as not to admit of any Salt or brackish Tincture: He's a Fish of Prey, has his Teeth in his Mouth, as other Fish of Prey have: When in Season is adorn'd with a Row of small, round, black Spots along the middle of each side, from Head to Tail. The Salmon are of several Sorts and different Appellations; but for a nice Taste Thames's Salmon are reckon'd to exceed those of any other River: In the River Severn the Spawning-time is in the Month of May; The Severn-Salmon are likewise excellent in their kind, and are first in Season of any River I know of in England; which is from February to the latter end of April: 'Tis said that they dig a private Hole in the Gravel, and there leave their Eggs, which early in the following Spring become Last-Spring's or Salmon-Smelts: After they have spawn'd both

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6 The Art of ANGLING

Melter and Spawner hasten to the Sea before Winter: But if, any are stop't by Floodgates, Wares or Mills, and so confin'd to the fresh Water; they become lean, consume and die within a Year or two at most.

HIS HAUNT.

In the Spring He returns again from Sea into the Fresh-Rivers, where he fattens; the Sea adding greatly to his growth and goodness: The Salmon delights to prey and sport in swift, violent Streams, and large Rivers, especially in such Waters that have pebly, gravelly, and sometimes in weedy Bottoms. Is ever restless, coveting to get near the Spring head; when off prey and sport, he swims in the deep, broad parts, and generally in the middle of the River near the Ground.

Observations and Remarks on the little SALMONS called SAMLETS, SALMON-PINKS or SHEDDERS; and also on the LAST-SPRINGS and GRAVEL-LAST-SPRINGS.

These small Salmon being found in our Rivers of several Sizes, and going under different Names in several places. may be a Reason why some have thought that the above small Fry of the Salmon are different Species or Sorts of Fish; but I conceive them to be all one and the same species, only they grow not to compleat Salmon or full proportion under two Years and a half; and the reason for my Opinion is, because I could never find any Spawn in any of those of lesser Size, before they came to be Salmon; which most certainly they would have had

And Compleat Fly-Fisher. 7

had, if of a different Species. The Last-Springs, Shedders, or Gravel-Last-Springs, so called in some Countries, are but one Sort or Species of Fish; are very plentiful in the Rivers, Severn, Wye and Dee from the latter end of March to the latter end of November, and are much like to the Salmon-Fry only the Salmon-Fry return to the Sea in March and April, whereas the Last-Springs and Shedders never leave the fresh Water: The little Gravel-Last-Spring is a Species of itself, which in the Rivers Wye and Severn spawn in the latter end of August and September, and at that time those Rivers abound with them: There are some of them at all times of the Year, but at the latter end of August I have catcht ten or twelve dozen of them in an Afternoon: I had the Curiosity of opening some of them, and found them to be full of Male-Spawn near the heding, but never could perceive any Female-Spawn, therefore am certain this must be a Species of itself, as having Spawn, but cannot account for this Fish having no Female Spawn which may be discern'd: Many have been of Opinion that they are the Spawn of the Sick-Salmon, which cannot get out of the fresh Rivers to Sea, and being the Off-spring of a weak Seed or Generation, is the Reason of their diminutive Size and incapacity of Breeding again; but I take this to be an Error, because the Salmon ever Spawn when in perfect Health only, before their time of going to Sea, and Spawn no more till their next return to the fresh Water, for unless they return to Sea, thereby to be purg'd and cleans'd by the Salt-Water, they pine away and die in their Imprisonment, either by excessive cold in fresh Water, or for want of Purgation, or both: Now the Purging of the Salt-Water may as well be a reason why Salmon grow so fast, as the want thereof the

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2 The Art of ANGLING.

cause why they pine away and die so soon, when confin'd to fresh Rivers, for Salmon being Fish of prey and great feeders. Nature directs them to Salt-Water, as Physick to purge and cleanse them; not only from their Impurities after Spawning, but from all their muddy and gross Humours acquir'd by their excessive feeding all the Summer in fresh Rivers, and hardens their Fat and Flesh, which makes them not only grow the faster, but also become the more wholesome Food, savoury and grateful to Mankind.

Of His Feeding time and Baits.

The Salmon is to be taken with the Trout's baits; they commonly lie in the middle of the rough, and upper part of a gentle Stream, when on prey, their best feeding-time is from six till nine in the Forenoon, and from three in the Afternoon till Sun-setting in a clear Water, when the Wind blows moderately against the Stream: The only Months of sporting for him are, from the beginning of March till the end of August; he is to be Fish'd for with the small Last-Spring, Flie or Worm bait, but the first is the best; You must trole for him in the same manner as you do for Pike, which is particularly described in the following Sheets; when struck, he begins to plunge and leap, but runs not to the end of the Line, as the Trout will: Some use a Ring on the top of the Rod, thro' which the Line may run to its extremity, tho' a Wheel about the middle of the Rod, or nearer the hand is much more convenient.

Of the LUCE OR PIKE.

The Pike is of a long and roundish Body, has a plain, smooth Head, is covered with small Scales,
of

And Compleat Fly-Fisher. 9

of a whitish colour, the Body is sprinkled on both sides with Yellowish Spots, the young ones are more green, the upper and lower Jaw are full of Teeth, and three Rows of Teeth upon the Tongue; he's the Tyrant of fresh-Water-Fish, and reckon'd a longer liver than any other Fish, except a Carp; he is very chargeable to his Owners; the chief of his Subsistence being upon other Fish, even those of his own Species; he will bite at a Dog or any other Creature he sees in the Water, of which many Instances might be given: A very particular one I shall relate. as follows: My Father catcht a Pike in Barn-Meer, (a large standing Water in Cheshire) was an Ell long, and weigh'd thirty five pounds which he brought to the Lord Cholmondley; His Lordship order'd it to be turn'd into a Canal in the Garden, wherein were abundance of several sorts of Fish; about 12 Months after his Lordship draw'd the Canal and found that this overgrown Pike had devour'd all the Fish, except one large Carp that weigh'd between nine and ten Pounds, and that was bitten in several places; the Pike was then put into the Canal again together with abundance of Fish with him to feed upon, all which he devoured in less than a Year's time, and was observ'd by the Gardiner and Workmen there to take the Ducks and other Water-fowl under Water; whereupon they shot Magpyes and Crows and throw'd them into the Canal, which the Pike took before their Eyes; of this they acquainted their Lord, who thereupon order'd the Slaughterman to fling Calf's-bellies, Chicken's-guts, and such like Garbage to him to prey upon, but being soon after neglected he dyed, as suppos'd for want of Food. It is the general opinion that no other Fish will associate themselves with this Water-Tyrant, for he always swims alone, and is the most bold and

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daring

daring of all our fresh-water Fish, knowing no other pleasure, as we conjecture, than Prey or Rest.

Of the Spawning time.

He Spawns but once a Year, which is usually about the end of February or beginning of March, at which time he goes out of the River into some Ditch or Creek, and all the while the Spawner is casting her Eggs the Miltler hovers over her, but never touches her: The best of those Fish are those that breed in Rivers, and the Female much preferable to the Male: Their chief Season is from May 'till Candlemas; his feeding is generally upon Fish or Frogs, there being a great antipathy between him and them; sometimes he feeds upon Pickrell-weed.

There are Four Ways of taking a PIKE:

The First is with a Ledge's bait, which is a bait fix'd to a certain place; it is best to have your Ledge's-bait living, whether it be a Fish or Frog, and to keep them alive the longer, observe this method: If it be a Fish, as a Roach or Dace, which are I think most tempting (tho' a Perch lives longest upon the Hook) having cut off his Fin on the back, which may be done without hurting him, make such incision between the Head and the Fin, as you may put the Arming Wire of your Hook into it, taking care to hurt the Fish as little as may be, and so carrying the Wire along his back into or near his Tail, between the Skin and the Body; draw out the Wire at another Incision near the Tail, then tie him about with Thread, but no harder than just to hold

And Compleat Fly-Fisher. 11

hold him to the Wire to avoid hurting the Fish; some use a Probe to open the passage for the more easie entrance of the Wire, but without so much trouble a little Experience will make you perfect in this matter: When your bait is a Frog, it may be either a Water or Land Frog; chuse the Yellowest you can get, for that the Pike likes best; and between the Months of May and August they are most beautiful: To preserve him long alive, manage him thus, put your Hook in at his Mouth and out at his Gills, then with a fine Needle and Silk sew the upper part of his Leg with one Stitch only to the arming Wire, (or if you tie his Leg fast above the upper Joint it will do as well) Having thus prepared your Ledger-bait either with a Fish or a Frog, fasten your Hook to a Line, which must be twelve or fourteen Yards at least in length, then fix the Line to some Bough or other rest next the Water, near to the Hole where you guess the Pike to be, then wind up your Line on a forked Stick with a notch in one end to keep your Line fix'd to the length you design, that when the Pike comes he may the more easily run off with the remaining part of the Line to his Hold, in order to swallow the bait.

The Second Way of taking a PIKE.

Is what we call taking them at Snap; for this purpose your Rod must be at least twelve Foot in length, very strong and taper, but not too heavy, with a substantial Loop at the end to put your Line to, which must be as long within a Foot as your Rod: When you bait for the Snap you must make a hole in the Fish's side you intend for the bait as near to the middle as you can with the point of your Hook or Probe, put in your armed Wire and draw it out at the Fish's Mouth, then sew up his Mouth:

When you Fish thus for the Pike, before you strike let him run a little, and then strike contrary to the way he takes: It is best to use a double Spring-hook in this sort of Fishing, being much preferable to any other, and never fails: This manner of Angling is only proper to be practiced in March, for then the Pike is sick and bites shie.

'The Third Way of taking a PIKE.

Is by scaring or haltering; and the chief time of the Year for this is from March to July, and in the hottest part of the Day, when the Fish appears, as they all do towards the top of the Water: When you have spied a Pike, fix your Eye stedfastly upon him without looking off, which will make him the quieter, and have your Snare with you ready fix'd after this manner: Take a strait taper Pole, that is stiff and strong enough, but not too heavy, of about four Yards in length; fasten it to the lesser end a small piece of hard twisted Whip-cord about a Yard long, more or less according to the depth of the Water, and the other End fasten to a well Nealed Brass Wire, made into a Noose or Snare like a Hare Gin; or let it all be of Nealed Wire and no Cord, then having open'd the Noose wide enough to slip over his head without touching him, let it down with your Pole into the Water even in depth with the Pike, two or three Yards before him, and guide it very gently towards his head, fixing your Eye full upon him till you have put the Snare over his Head and Gill-Fins, but no further; Then immediately with a strong Jerk upright, hoist him instantly to Land Keeping your Eye as much as you can on the Pike, will cause him to look upon you the more and mind the Snare less: Before your Pole be not brittle or rotten; Thus you may

may halter other Fish, as Trouts, Eels, Carp and Tench.

The Fourth Way of taking a PIKE.

Is by Trolling, and very pleasant: The Lines and other Tackle for this purpose are now so accurately and exactly made, and so commonly sold, that I need not trouble you with a description of them: It is best Angling after this manner in a clear Water, and especially in a Windy-day: Some prefer a single before a double Pike-hook, and baiting with a Minnow as well to catch Pearch as Pike by Trolling; When you are compleatly fitted with all Materials, and your Hook is baited, cast your Fish-bait up and down in such places as you know the Pike frequents, letting him sink a considerable depth, before you pull him up again: When the Pike comes, if it be not sunk too deep, you may see the Water move, at least you may feel him; then Slack your Line, and give him length enough to run to his hold; whither he will immediately make and there panch and swallow the Bait; thus let him lie till you see the Line move, when you may certainly conclude he hath swallow'd the Bait, and is ranging about for more; then with your Trole wind up the Line 'till you think it is almost strait, and with a nimble Jerk hook him, and bring him pleasantly to Land. The Pike loves a still, shady and unfrequented Water, with a Sandy, Chalky or Clay bottom: His best biting time is early in the Morning or late in the Evening in a clear Water and gentle Gales: He takes all Sorts of Baits, except Flies, but the most principal are, large Gudgeons, small Roaches, and Daces, large Minnows, Bull-heads, Bleaks, (in July) young Frogs or Salmon-Smelts; some use fat Bacon in the

Winter

14 The Art of ANGLING

Winter Months; a young Trout, Jack or Perch are also good: Take care that all your Fish-baits are fresh and sweet when you use them.

Of the TROUT.

The Trout is a Fish highly valued both in this and Foreign Nations; he feeds clear and purely, and in the swiftest Streams; and may justly claim a preference to all fresh-water Fish; the Shape of it is rather long than broad like a Salmon; it has a short, roundish Head, a blunt Snout, and is in many respects like the Salmon; his Mouth is also filled with Teeth as the Salmon's are: The best Trouts are either Red or Yellow, tho' some are White, and yet good, but these are rarely found: The Female Trout has a lesser Head, deeper Body, and usually better Meat than the Male: 'Tis observ'd that a Hog-back and a little head to any Fish, either Trout, Salmon, or other sorts, is a Sign that such Fish are in Season: There are several Sorts of Trouts, tho' they all go under that general Name, which differ in their Bigness, Shape, and Colour; and in some Rivers they are sooner in Season than others; and in some longer before they go out of Season: There is a sort of small Trout which will never come to any bigness, but breed much more than those of larger Size.

The Spawning Time.

The Trout, a little before they Spawn, make up the River towards the Spring-head, and to admiration will get thro' Mills, Wares and Flood-gates; and up such high and swift Currents and Places, as is almost incredible, and Spawn in October or

November, but in some Rivers a little sooner or later, like the Salmon; contrary to the natural Course of most other Fish, which Spawn in warmer Weather. After Trouts have Spawn'd, they wast, look big-headed, are sick, lean, become insipid, are lousy and unwholsome, 'till Spring comes to restore them to their pristine health; except some of the Females that are barren, and continue good all the Winter; and such are to be found in divers of our Rivers, as in Arrow in Hereford-shire; and also in the River Teme, that arises in Radnor-shire, and in Clun Water in Shropshire: In this respect they may be compar'd to the barren Doe, that comes in Season about the middle of November, and goes out the beginning of February.

His Haunts.

In February, when the Weather becomes warmer, Trouts leave their Winter-quarters in the deeps, to scour cleanse, and recreate themselves in shallower Waters and Streams and to prepare themselves for their Summer delights; and as they gather strength advance still higher up the River 'till they become settled in their Summer habitations; many of them getting as high as they can towards the Spring-head of Rivers, as in the preceding Section: In their Travels they settle for the most part in Whirl pools, and Holes into which swift Streams, Sharps and Shallows fall; and growing strong feed in the largest and swiftest Currents, especially in the sides and deepest parts of them, near to their holds: If they be large Fish they commonly lie under hollow Banks, worn so by the Streams bearing upon them; under Roots of Trees, Boughs and Bushes, and behind great Stones, Blocks and Banks that jett forth into the Water, on which Streams

Streams pressing hard cause an Eddy or Whirling back of the Water; and they also delight themselves in all such places that are shaded with any Bush, or cover'd over with Froth, Bank or other thing; constantly waiting and watching for the Stream to bring something down to feed upon, or for some small Fish, which they often make their Prey; Sometimes they take up their Station under Bridges, and between two Streams that run from under double Arches of Bridges; in the returns of Streams where the Water seems to boil and role up and down, in deep, still Waters: They chiefly lurk under hollow Banks and Roots of Trees; and for want of such hiding places, abscond under Seggs or Weeds, the better to surprize their Prey, especially in the beginning of the Year before they become healthy; but at the latter end of the Year when declining in Strength they lie in the Tails of Streams and when in their very Prime in Mill-heads or Dams and at the upper end of Mill-pools, under Planks and Timber and in other deep swift Streams at Locks, Flood-gates and Wares; thus by being acquainted with their most frequented Haunts, the Angler may be in the next place, more easily directed in the various ways of Sporting for them.

The best Months for Angling for TROUTS.

The best four Months for Angling for Trouts are March, April, May and June; You may begin in February if the Weather be open and mild; but the chiefest Months are those four first mentioned; In March and April 'tis best Angling for Trouts with a Worm in the Forenoon, and with a Fly or Minnow all the rest of the Day: But in the Month
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of May you must use the Minnow and Codbait in the Forenoon 'till the Fly's come down: In March if the Weather be hot, still and bright, and the Water clear, Angle for them in the swiftest Streams, and most strong part of the River with Minnow or Worm only, and in the Deeps Mornings and Evenings very early and late; that is if the Weather proves very clear and bright. In my Opinion the Trout is best in Season about the beginning of May; before he has fill'd and gorg'd himself with that Fly, for the May Fly makes the Belly thin and the Fish flabby.

Of the GRAYLING, his Season, and Shape.

Some are of Opinion that the UMBER and GRAYLING differ only as the Herring and Pilchard do; but I think they are both the same Fish, only different Counties give him separate Names: He feeds like a Trout, but is of another Shape; for he's Hogback'd, and his Fins standing upon his back like those of a Perch, his Mouth and Belly touch the Ground together, which makes me believe he feeds most at the bottom: As to his Size, he never exceeds twenty four Inches in length, is good & palatable all the Year, but the principal Season is from September 'till Christmas; at which time he's black about his Head and Gills and down the Back, his Belly is of a dark gray dappled Colour, with beautiful black Spots; on his Sides is of a delicate Shape his Flesh white and firm, his Teeth grow round his Upper Jaw, as fine as any File, and his Mouth is so tender on each side, that he often breaks the hold, when taken; therefore 'tis best Angling for him with a fine Hook.

His Spawning Time.

He Spawns about the latter end of March and beginning of April, at which time he lies in sharp Streams and Brows, and is very apt to rise at the Artificial Fly, but you seldom take a Spawner: The Melter will at that time take a Worm freely.

His HAUNT.

His Haunts are the same as those of a Trout, and He's usually taken with the same Baits and after the same manner: He will take a Fly, Worm, or Maggot, but the last most freely, but is very game-some at the Fly or Worm being much simpler and therefore bolder than a Trout: He will rise two or three times at a Fly, if you miss him: He lurks close all the Winter, but about the latter end of April swims very nimbly in the middle of the Water, is then extremely active and brisk, but dead hearted and Cowardly after He's hook'd.

How to take the GRAYLING.

He feeds upon Codbait and Stonebait, and all other little Insects that gather Husks to preserve them from the Coldness of the Water, which are compos'd of Gravel and Sand: For the Grayling plows and routs up the Gravel to seek his Food, as natural as the Hogs plow for theirs: I have often seen half a dozen Graylings at a time routing the Gravel up and catching at every thing that was like Food: When you Fish for him within Water, let your Bait or Shot drag upon the Ground, for he will rather take it from the bottom, than ascend; Therefore when you Angle particularly for him, Use a
Cork-scat

Cork-float rather than a running Line. Indeed I cannot but think a Trout much inferiour to the Grayling for Angling or Eating: I'm inform'd that the great River Humber, which runs thro' part of Yorkshire, produces more of this sort of Fish than any other River in England; and therefore what we in most other parts of the Kingdom call Grayling they there (by a resemblance of the Name, with that of the River) call the Golden-Umber; Which Epithet they give him because he feeds on those Stony and Gravelly Insects that gather up the dust, which is very fine; which dust when mix'd with the Slime in the Fish's belly thines like Gold.

Of the PERCH, his Spawning time, and Shape.

The Perch is a very good and bold biting Fish, is one of the Fishes of Prey carrying his Teeth in his Mouth, which is very large; he's very ravenous and a great devourer of his Brethren, has a hog-back and arm'd with sharp Prickles; his Skin is cover'd over with thick, dry, hard Scales, having two Fins at his Back: The Sea Perch has but one Fin on his back, and is esteem'd a much better Fish: He Spawns in May: As to his Shape, he's deep body'd, about fourteen Inches in length, oftener less, tho' there have been seen of them two Foot long.

With what Baits, and how to take the PERCH.

There are several Baits which will take him, but he bites as freely at the three following as at any or

all others whatever; that is, the Worm, Minnow, or little Frog; and of all Worms, I take the Dung-hill-Worm, called the Red-Worm, to be the best, when well scoured in Moſs or Fennel: And if you rove for a Perch with a Minnow, let it be alive, and ſtick the Hook in its back Fin or upper Lip, and let him Swim up and down in Midwater or a little lower, ſtill keeping him about that depth with a Cork, which ought not to be very ſmall; and you muſt be ſure to lead your Line within 9 Inches or a Foot of the Hook, for that will keep the Bait under Water; or elſe he will come to the top when tired; This is as good a Bait for the Trout as any: When you Fiſh with a Frog, you muſt put the Hook through the Skin of his back, for then he will ſwim without interruption: When either Trout or Perch bite, before you give him Line enough that he may gorge the Bait, or elſe the Hook being cover'd with the bait will ſlip out of his Mouth. This way of Fiſhing for Perch is beſt in the Months of May and June, for then they are roving about for the Spawn of the Roach or Dace. The beſt way of gathering theſe Fiſh together is to take half a dozen Clay-Balls, about the Size of a Penny-loaf, of the ſtiffest, faſteſt Clay that can be had, and make them round and full of holes; but you ſhould firſt have ready a large quantity of Lob-Worms. then put one end of every Worm into each hole and cloſe the Clay faſt upon them: Thus having fill'd and ſtuff'd all the Balls, take them to the Pool, Pond, or River, where you intend to Angle; throw two or three Balls in a place at about a Yard's diſtance from each other; theſe Worms in the Balls being alive, twiſt and twine themſelves which tempts the Fiſh to feed boldly upon them: This is the moſt ſingular Ground-bait I know of to take Carp, Tench, Perch, Bream or Barbel: You may amuſe them with ſtew'd
Malt

Malt or Grains; but they'll Eat very little of it: In often using these Ground-baits as above, you will draw the Fish together natural as Poultry to the Barn-door: And when they frequent those Balls forget not the use of the Maggot, which is the best of all Ground-baits.

Of the TENCH.

The Tench, the Physician of Fishes, is observ'd to love Ponds better than Rivers, and to prefer Pits to either: This Fish is Leather-mouth'd, has very large Fins, small and smooth Scales, a red Circle about his Eyes, which are large and of a Gold Colour; from each Corner of his Mouth hangs down a little Barb: This Fish is used in Medicinal Cases, and much commended for wholesome Food: He carries a natural Balsam to cure both himself and others; and yet loves to feed in very fowl Water and amongst Weeds: 'Tis a general Acceptation that when any other Fish receives wound or hurt he will search for the Tench, and endeavour to rub himself against him; which proves a certain Cure by Vertue of the Balsam or Slime that is naturally upon the Tench.

The Spawning Time and Season.

He begins to Spawn in June, and in some Ponds not till the latter end of July, and lives some time out of Water and is best in Season from the latter end of September 'till the latter end of May.

His Biting Time and Baits.

He'll bite at a well scour'd red Worm, a Maggot

a young Wasp Grub, boil'd or a green Worm from the Boughs of the Trees: I reckon these four the best sort of Baits that are; His biting Season is from the beginning of April 'till the latter end of May: Whether you Angle for him in Pond or River, bait the place first with the same Balls as directed for the Perch or Carp; but be sure if you have Maggots, throw in a few at the taking of every Fish, for that will keep them together: The Size of your Hook must be from Number six to Number three, whipt to a strong Sea-Grass or Silk-worm-gut, two or three Shots at the Line for Pond-fishing will be enough with a Swan or Goose-quill Floate: The same Fishing Tackle will serve for Carp, Perch and Tench; His striking time, or hours of Motion are about Eight, Twelve, and Four, Night or Day in the three hot Months: If you can wade the Pit or Pond where Carp or Tench are, you may stir the Mud with your Feet or with any Instrument 'till you make the Water very muddy; which will throw every Fish up to the Top of the Water, and make them put their Noses out of the Water for Air: This I have experienc'd in Cheshire, and then you may take out what Size you please; but this must be done in very hot Weather: The muddy Water makes them very Sick for the present, but in half an Hour's time they'll recover and retire to the bottom again.

Of the CARP, His Shape, and Colour.

The Carp is a stately and very subtle Fish; Stiled the Fresh-Water-Fox, he is originally of Foreign Growth; his Back rises from his Head somewhat Sharp and Edged, is covered with very large, strong, broad Scales, is of a yellowish Colour, especially
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when arriv'd to an Age : the younger sort are more inclin'd to a dusky Colour ; his Head is short, in proportion to the rest of his Body ; has no Teeth and swims with broad Fins, his Tail is broad and forked, of a Colour between red and black, as is also the last Fin ; neither has he any Tongue, but instead thereof, Nature has given him a Fleshy Palate to relish his Food : He's observ'd to breed several Months in the Year, contrary to the Nature of most other Fish : To strengthen this Conjecture, you shall seldom take a Male Carp without a Milt, or a Female without much Spawn ; especially all the Summer Season : She breeds more naturally in Ponds than in running Water, (if she breeds there at all) but the River Carp for Eating is prefer'd to all others : He's very difficult to take, and there's a Necessity of exercising the Vertue of Patience when you sport for him ; for I have known the best of Anglers use their utmost Art and Diligence for many Hours to take him : In some Ponds they are as difficult to take as in a River ; that is where they have store of Feed and a clear Water : He is to be fish'd for early or late ; you cannot go to an Extreme in either.

The Spawning Time.

She begins to Spawn in May ; and when a Female Carp goes to cast her Spawn, three or four Milts follow her, and she dissembling a Coyness, they force her thro' Weeds and Flags, where she drops her Spawn : which sticks fast to the Weeds, then the Male performs his Office, and all the Spawn so Milted upon, in a short time becomes living Fish They begin to Spawn at Four Years old : The Carp and Tench are the only two Fish that ought to be

put in a Pond together; and thrive best in Marl or Clay bottoms.

His Haunts.

There is scarce any sort of Fish that loves a cold hungry Water, but such Water as comes off rich, fat Soils, and is very soft; in these all sorts of Pool Fish delight and thrive: It is imprudent to keep any other Fish with Carp and Tench, especially Roach and Dace, for they destroy the Carp's Food: There are Pike, Perch, Roach, Dace, Bream and Slate the most fit to keep Company together.

Of His Biting times and Baits.

He bites at a well scoured red Worm. Maggot, Wasp-Grub, or the green Worm from Boughs, Trees or Bushes; which last is a very natural Bait. There are many sorts of Pastes that are mention'd for taking of Carp and other Fish; but I look upon them to be very ordinary, the four sorts of Baits abovemention'd being the best I have experienc'd for the taking of Carp, Tench and Perch, by reason you can raise quantities of them to bait your holes, which will certainly draw them together if you do it a Day or two before you intend to Angle; but in case the Fish are shy, you must continue to bait the holes for a Fortnight or three Weeks together once a Day, then you may depend on Sport: But if the Pool or Pond be well stor'd with these sort of Fish, you need not bait where you purpose to Sport above an Hour or two before hand: Your Worms must be of the red or white Sort, not too large, and well Scoured: There are many other

Baits; but these with Diligence and Patience will take a Carp sooner than any other I ever tried: He's generally caught at the bottom where the Line and Lead is not discovered, as it is in Midwater; By baiting the Holes before you Fish for him, and tasting your Baits without disturbance or Treachery will make him feed bold and not apprehensive of being betray'd; Use a long Rod and Quill-Float, keeping out of sight as much as you can whilst Angling; when you strike him give him play enough, otherwise he will break all your Tack, for he is not only a strong Fish but a great strugler; and if he is a large Fish, as soon as he takes the Bait will run immediately to the other side of the River or Pond: He's a Leather-mouth'd Fish, his Age is variously determin'd, but most think that he commonly arrives to the Age of 40 or 50 Years: He's best in Season in March and April.

Observations on the Breeding of CARP.

Unless Gentlemen take more care than they have done of late Years, it is impossible to have large Carp; because they overstock the Pool with them, which keeps the Fish lean, and causes them to breed in Abundance: And when they once begin to breed will never grow to any Size afterwards; neither will the Spawn of little Carp ever grow to be large; for when they take to breed at two or three Years old, the Fish of such Spawn will never grow to be large, change them into ever so many Waters; for it is as much impossible to have large Fish from the Spawn of small ones, as it is to expect a large Breed of Fowls from a Guinea Cock and Hen; for when the Carp Breed so young, they may properly be call'd of the Dwarf kind: Now if Gentlemen are desirous to Breed their Fish large, let them pick out

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the Males and Females of such Sort of Fish they delight in, of the largest Size; then put them into their Breeding Pans or Pools; and be sure cleanse the same first of all other Fish; thus in two or three Years time they will have the right Store Carp; then take the Males and Females of these Fish, and put them separate into your Pans or Pools, and in few Years they will become large Eating Fish: By thus managing and shifting your Fish, you'll have a constant Stock; but then you ought once in three Years to examine if the Water agrees with them: Before that your Fish for Breeders are each four or five pounds Weight at least, and as much bigger as possible: For the Fry of a large Fish will grow to as large a Size in four or five Years time, as those of a small Size will in ten Years; contrary to the Judgment of most Gentlemen, who believe that the Water and Feed add to the growth of the Carp, and therefore regard not what siz'd Fish they Breed from which is a very great Error.

How to Preserve and Feed Fish in POOLS.

When you intend to stock a Pool with Carp or Tench, make a close Ething Hedge across the head of the Pool about a Yard distance off the Dam and about three Foot above the Water, which is the best refuge for them I know of, and the only method to preserve Pool Fish; because if any one attempts to Rob the Pool, Muddy's the Water or disturbs it with Nets, most of the Fish, if not all, immediately fly between the Hedge and the Dam to preserve themselves; and in all Pools, where there are such Shelters and Shades, the Fish delight to Swim backwards and forwards through and round

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the same, rubbing and sporting themselves therewith. This Hedge ought to be made chiefly of Ors, and not too close, the Boughs long and stragling towards the Dam, by which means you may feed and fatten them as you please: The best Baits for drawing them together a first are, Maggots or young Wasps, the next are, Bullocks-Brains and Lob-Worms chopp'd together and thrown into the Pools in large Quantities, about two Hours before Sun set Summer and Winter: By thus Using these Ground Baits once a Day for a Fortnight together; The Fish will come as constantly and naturally to the Place as Cattle to their Fodder; and to satisfy your Curiosity and convince you herein; after you have baited the Pool for sometime as directed, take about the Quantity of a Two-penny Loaf of Wheaten Bread, cut it into Slices and wet it, then throw it into the Pool where you had baited, and the Carp will feed upon it; after you have us'd the wet Bread three or four Mornings, then throw some dry Bread in, which will lie on the top of the Water: And if you watch out of sight of the Fish, you will presently see them swim to it and Suck it in: I look upon Wheaten Bread to be the best Food for them, tho' Barley or Oaten-Bread is very good. If there be Tench and Perch in the same Pond, they will feed upon the four former Baits and not touch the Bread. Indeed there is no Pool Fish so Shy and Nice as a Carp, as I have before observ'd: When the Water is disturb'd Carp will fly to the safest Shelter they can, which I one Day observ'd, when assisting a Gentleman to Fish his Pool; for another Person disturb'd the Water by throwing the Casting Net, but caught never a Carp; Whereupon two or three of Us Stripp'd and went into the Pool, which was provided with such a Sort of a Hedge in it as is before described, whither the Carp had fled for

safety, then Fishing with our Hands on both sides the Hedge, that is, one on either Side, We catch'd what quantity of Carp was wanting: Carp are a hardy Fish and will live longer out of the Water than most other Fish. I shall Conclude with a particular Observation on this Head, as given by a late ingenious Author: Carps, says he, will live out of Water in an open place only with much Air as is manifest by the method of Fattening them in Holland, and which has been practiced here in England. viz. They hang them up in a Cellar or some cool place on wet Moss in a small Net, with their Heads out with a Packthread through the upper Fin to keep them upright and thus feed them with White Bread and Milk for many Days: This, adds our Author, was told me by a Man very curious and of great Honour and Eminency, whose Word, If I might name him, no Body would question; Indeed I myself have seen this experienc'd, and as it is an instance of the Respiration of Fishes, very singular and somewhat out of the way, I have for the Reader's diversion taken Notice of it.

Of the BREAM.

The Bream is a broad Fish, of a small Head, sharp Snout, the top of the Head somewhat broad and smooth, the Back bending and edged, rising sensibly from the Head like a Swine; the Colour of his Back is betwixt Blue and Black, his Sides & Belly White; especially in those that are young and lean; but the Sides of those that are of full growth shine of a Gold Colour, and their Belly is Red; the Mouth in proportion to his Size is very small and without Teeth, the palate of him is Soft and Fleshy, like that of a Carp, and the Flesh of him is soft and clammy: This Fish very much resembles a Carp, being very broad.

And Compleat Fly-Fisher: 29

broad, with a forked Tail, and his Scales set in excellent Order; he has large Eyes, but a small sucking Mouth; The Milt is observ'd to have two large Milts, and the Spawner two large bags of Spawn: The best parts of this Fish for Eating are, his Belly and his Head: 'Tis said that Breams and Roaches will mix their Eggs and Milt together, by which means there is in many places a Bastard Race of Breams, which never grow to be large, are very numerous but not good for Eating.

The Spawning Time.

Breams Spawn the latter end of June and beginning of July; and are best in Season a little before they spawn, tho' some think them best in September, having then had their Summer's Feed.

Their Haunts.

They Swim in Sholes or great Companies, delighting most in gentle, soft Streams, Sandy or Clay bottoms, in the deepest, broadest, and middle parts of Ponds, and in the deepest, broadest, and most quiet places in Rivers near unto Weeds: The Bream and Roach are Fish that live and delight as well in Rivers that are dead and heavy Waters as in Pools; especially in a River called Avon in Warwickshire and Worcestershire, where are plenty of them.

How and with what Baits to take the BREAM.

There are many sorts of Baits wherewith to take him, viz. Red Worms well scoured, but they like
Gentles

Gentles and the young Wasp-brood best; which last should be boiled in a Pot or Kettle, or dried on a Tile Stone before the Fire; which makes them not unlike the Gentles; or else a Worm like a Maggot, which is found at Dock Roots, Flags, Segs, or Rushes in Watery places; he'll also bite at a Grasshopper in June or July, or at several Flies under Water, found on Flags that grow near the Water-side: There are several other good sorts of Baits but this following (communicated to me by an excellent Angler,) I prefer to them all either for Carp or Bream, that is; Take the largest Red Worms you can get without a Knot, which are to be found in great Numbers in an Evening in Garden-Walks or on Chalky-Commons after a Shower of Rain: Keep a quantity of them by you in an Earthen Pot, in clean Moss, well wash'd, pick'd and squees'd as dry as possible: Renew the Moss every fourth Day for three Weeks or a Month together; then your Bait will be in perfection: Having thus prepared your Baits, have your Fishing Tackle ready after this manner: Take three long Angling Rods, three or four Silk, or Silk and hair Lines, and as many large Swan or Goose-quill Floats; then fasten Leaden Plummetts to the lower end of your Line, about a Foot or ten Inches distance from the Hook, but before the Lead is heavy enough to sink the Float, and not the Float to bear up the Lead: The lower part of your Line next the Hook may be smaller than the rest, if you dare venture, for fear of taking the Pike or Perch, who will certainly visit your Hooks, 'till they are caught; as I shall hereafter shew, before either Carp or Bream will come near to bite: When the Worm is well baited, it will crawl and work itself as far as the Lead will permit, which much inticeth the Fish to bite without Suspicion: Your Baits being thus ready, and your Tackling fitted,

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repair to the Rivers, where at three or four o'Clock in a hot Summer's Afternoon you have seen them swim in Shoals, and which is easily discern'd; watch their going out and coming back to their Holes, for they return about those Hours, most of them seeking Food at the bottom, yet one or two most commonly lie on the Top of the Water, rolling and tumbling about whilst the rest are at the bottom under them, thus you will ever perceive one or more keeping Centry, then observe where they play most and keep longest which is commonly in the broadest and deepest Part of the River; then chuse where is a clear Bottom and convenient Landing-place, take one of your Angles and sound the Bottom, and let it be about eight or ten Feet deep, and about two Yards from the Bank is best. Consider next if that Water will rise or fall by next Morning by reason of any Water-Mills, near, and according to discretion take the depth of the Place where you intend afterwards to cast your ground Baits, and Fish to half an Inch, that the Lead lying on or near the ground Baits, the top of the Float may only appear upright half an Inch above the Water: Thus having fixed your place and found the depth thereof, return home and prepare your ground Baits; as follows; take a Peck of sweet ground Barley Malt, boil it in a Kettle, then strain it thro' a Linnen Bag into a Tub, and when Bag & Malt are almost cold, take them down to the Water side about eight or nine o'Clock in the Evening and not before; throw in about one half of the ground Malt, squeeze hard between your Hands, it will sink presently to the bottom; take care that it lodge in the very place you intend to Angle; if the Current run hard or move a little, throw the Malt in handfulls the higher up the Stream; before you squeeze the Malt so hard in handfulls that the Water will

will scarcely part it by the sinking; having thus baited and prepared your Fishing Tackle, leave the Bag with the Ground Baits and other Materials near the Sporting Place all Night, and about three or four o'Clock in the Morning visit the Water-side, but not too near, for these Fish are very watchfull, take one of your three Rods gently up into your Hands, bait your Hook then cast it over the Ground Bait, and softly and secretly draw it to you, 'till the Lead rests about the Middle of the Ground Bait, cast in your second Line about a Yard above, and the third, both baited, a Yard below the first: Fix the Rods in the Ground, but besure go so far from the Water side 'till you perceive nothing but the Floats, which you must watch very diligently; for when the Fish bite you'll perceive the Float sink suddenly into the Water, yet run not too hastily to the Rod 'till you perceive the Line drawn clear away; 'then creep to the Water Side, and give as much Line as possibly you can; and if it be a Carp or Bream, they'll go to the further side of the Water, then strike gently, and hold your Rod somewhat sloping for a little while, for if you both pull you are sure to lose the Game, either Line, Hook or Hold will certainly break: After you have overcome them they'll make fine Sport, but are very shie to be Landed: The Carp is more strong and mettlesome than the Bream: If Pike or Perch breed in the same River, they'll bite first, and must be first taken, for the most part they are very large, and will repair to your ground Bait; not that they will eat it, but will Feed and Sport themselves amongst the young Fry, that gather about and hover above the Bait: The way of discerning and taking the Pike, if you mistrust the Bream Hook, is thus; Take a small Bleak, Roach, or Gudgeon, bait with it and set it alive amongst your Rods two Foot deep from

from the Cork, with a little red Worm on the point of the Hook; then take a handful or two of Maggots or some of the ground Bait, and sprinkle it gently amongst your Rods; If the Pike be there, the little Fish will skip out of the Water, whereby your living Bait will certainly be took: Thus continue your Sport from four in the Morning 'till eight And if it be Gloomy and Windy they'll bite all Day; but that is too long to stand in one place and may spoil an Evening's Diversion; which, should be thus prosecuted; about four in the Afternoon repair to the baited Place, throw in one half of the Remainder of the ground Bait; standing out of sight of the Water, whilst the Fish gather together; and after some short time of absence, bait your three Rods again, and put them in as directed in the Morning, and you'll be sure of excellent Sport 'till eight in the Evening; then cast in the rest of your ground Bait, and at four next Morning Visit them again for four Hours, which will be the best Sport of all: They are in their prime from St. James's till Bartholomew's Day; being always fattest after their Summer's Feeding. Observe lastly, that after three or four Days Fishing, your Game will be very shy and timerous, so that you will scarcely have a Bite at a baiting; then 'desist for two or three Days, and in the place where you last baited and intend to renew your baits, take a Turf of short Grass about the bigness of a round Trencher, and with a Needle and green Thread fasten one by one as many little red Worms as will almost cover the Turf, then make a hole in the middle of a round broad Trencher, and place the Turf thereon, put a Cord thro' it and tye it to a Pole; let it thus manag'd, sink down to the bottom of the Water for the Fish to feed upon without disturbance for three or four Days and after that time when you

have drawn it away you'll find Sport almost beyond your Expectation.

Of the FLOUNDER.

The Flounder is Originally a Sea Fish without Scales, which wanders very far into fresh Rivers, and there dwells and loses himself; growing twice his length and about as broad again as when he quits the Sea: He is a very wholesome Fish and Nutritive: The best are distinguished by red Spots: This Fish affords much Sport to the Angler.

HIS HAUNT.

He commonly frequents gravelly sandy Bottoms, deep gentle Streams, near the Banks, or at the end of a Stream in a deep still place, or in a gentle Stream that is somewhat Brackish, and sometimes in the deepest stillest part of the River near the Bank, but not so frequent as in pretty swift, or rather gentle Streams.

His Biting Time and Baits.

They'll bite at any small Worm, found in Marshy Ground and Meadows, which should be well Scoured; he is a crafty tho' greedy biter, and will Nibble and Suck at a bait sometime before he takes it; and if he perceives the Hook, will fly from it: Therefore let your bait be always in Motion, which will make him the more Eager: They'll bite all day from Sun-rise to Sun-set.

Of the BARBEL.

The Barbel is so call'd from his Barb or Wattles at his Mouth; He is a Leather-mouth'd Fish, large, of a fine Cast, and a handsome Shape, with small Scales, plac'd after a most exact and curious manner; but is not reckon'd the best of Fish for Eating, either for Wholesomeness or Taste; the Male however is reputed much better than the Female.

Their Spawning Time.

They begin to Spawn in April, and then are at the worst, but quickly become in Season; they flock together like Sheep: The Milter and Spawner mutually labour to hide the Eggs in holes, which they dig in the Gravel, covering them over with Sand, much like to the Salmon.

His Haunts.

He is able to live in the swiftest of Waters, and in Summer frequents the shallowest and sharpest Streams, delighting to lurk under Weeds and feed on Gravel against a rising Ground, rutting and digging in the Sands with his Nose like a Hog, there nesting himself; yet sometimes he retires to deep and swift Waters, Bridges, Floodgates and Wares, where he will nest himself amongst Piles or in hollow places, taking such hold of Moss or Weeds, that be the Current ever so strong, it cannot force him from the place he contends for: This is his constant Custom in the Summer, when he and most other living Creatures sport themselves in the Sun; but at the approach of Winter he forsakes the swift Streams and shallow Waters, and by degrees retires

those parts of the River, that are quiet and deep, in which places about April they Spawn, and are then at the worst, but soon come into Season again.

Of His Biting times and Baits.

The Chub and Barbel are reckon'd the worst or courtest of fresh Water Fish, but the Barbel affords the Angler fine sport, being so lusty, as frequently to endanger the breaking of the Line, by running his Head violently towards any Covert, Hole or Bank then striking at the Line with his Tail to break it; he is also so cunning as to Nibble and Suck off your bait close to the Hook, yet will avoid letting it come into his Mouth: He is likewise very curious in his Baits, for they must be clean and sweet, the Worms well scoured, not kept in four or musty Moss, for he is a nice feeder, and a well scoured Lob-worm will bite as boldly as at any baits whatever, especially if a Night or two before you Fish for him, you bait the place where you intend to Angle with large Worms, cut into pieces: Neither can you overbait the place, nor Fish too early or too late for him: Maggots well scoured are best to bait for him: Lastly when you Fish for the Barbel use a long Rod of good Strength, for you will find him difficult to deal with; yet when once struck, he seldom or never breaks his hold: He bites early from Sun-rise 'till ten o'Clock in the Morning, and from four in the Evening 'till Sun-set, sometimes later: Their principal Biting Months are, from the beginning of May 'till the latter end of August.

Of the CHUB, CHEVIN or BOTLING;
their Spawning Time, Season & Shape.

The

And Compleat Fly-Fisher. 37

The Chub much resembles the Carp, but only of somewhat a longer Shape, his Scales are very broad; his Head short, and his Teeth are in his Throat: He will feed upon little Fish or Frogs. About a Fortnight before they Spawn, if the Weather be hot they gather together in Sholes, and appear on the top of the Water; and likewise for a Week or Nine Days after, if the Weather be hot and bright: They Spawn in the beginning of May, but I think they are not in Season 'till the beginning of August, and so continue 'till the Month of April, being in greatest perfection in the Winter Months. You may slit and Salt them, which makes them in this part of the World preferable to any Salted Fish whatever, as not having the quantity of hairy Bones in them at that time, which they have in May, June, and July.

HIS HAUNTS.

The Chub likes Sandy or Clay bottoms, large Rivers and shady Streams; but their chief abode is in the Angles or deep Holes, where the Water runs not very quick: They thrive much in Ponds, into which any Rivulet runs.

HIS Biting time and Baits.

His Biting time is from Sun-rising 'till ten in the Morning, and from four in the Afternoon 'till Sun-set; he is to be caught in the hot Months at bottom with Cow's Brains, Lob Worms, Grasshoppers and Cod-baits: And at the top with the Cannon or Down-hill Fly, the Grasshopper, Caterpillar, May-fly, or Ant-fly; these are all to be used in the manner of Bobbing or Dipping: You must be sure to

place

place Yourself out of sight behind some Bush or Tree, for it is to be imagin'd the Chub will fly to the bottom of the Water at the very shadow of your Rod, being the most fearful of all Fish, and will also make instantly to the bottom on the Shadow of a Bird flying over the Water, but will presently arise and lie floating on the Top again; at which time move your Rod slowly to the Chub you Fish for, let your bait fall softly on the Water three or four Inches before him, and he will infallibly take it, for he is a Leather-mouth'd Fish, having his Teeth, as said before in his Throat, out of which a Hook scarce ever loseth it's hold, and therefore give him play enough before you offer to take him out of the Water: There are many baits to take a Chub; as a black Snail, with its Belly slit to show the White; sometimes a Worm, or any kind of Fly, as the Ant Fly, Flesh Fly, Dor or Beetle or a Bob; which is a short, white Worm, like to, but bigger than a Gentle or a Cod, or Case-worm; he'll take any of these very well, and never refuses a Grasshopper at the top of a swift Stream or a young Wasp-grub at the bottom, which Grubs are found in the holes of Banks and discover'd by the old ones going in and out, and are often found by the Mowers when cutting of Grass: They must be boiled or baked before used: The Chub will likewise bite at red Cherries, provided you bait the hole with them the Night before you Fish: You must be sure to make use of the same siz'd Hook, and also the same sort of a Rod and Line as for a Carp. The Spawn of a Chub is excellent for Eating, his Head is the best part of him; and cannot be dress'd too soon after he is taken.

And Compleat Fly-Fisher. 39

Of the ROACH and DACE.

The Roach is so call'd from his red Fins; he's a Fish not much admir'd for his nice tast, but the Spawn is reckon'd the best part of him: He's a Leather-mouth'd Fish, having a sort of Saw-like Teeth in his Throat: As a Carp is stiled the Water Fox for his Cunning, so the Roach is called the Water Sheep for his Simplicity: 'Tis observeable that the Roach and Dace recover Strength and are in Season about a Fortnight after Spawning; the Barbel and Chub in a Month, the Trout in four Months and the Salmon in the same time, provided he returns to the Sea and comes back again into the fresh Waters: River Roaches are ever prefer'd to those in Ponds; but the latter are usually of a larger Breed: There are a sort of small bastard Roaches with a very forked Tail, bred in some Ponds, differing from the true Roach, as the Pilchard from the Herring: The Roach makes fine diversion, especially those of the larger Size, they're a very healthful Fish, whence comes the Proverb, As sound as a Roach.

His Spawning Time.

The Dace or Dare spawn about the tenth of March, and the Roach about the beginning of May; these Fish are best in Season, from Michaelmas 'till Candlemas, and are very ordinary Eating all the Summer.

The HAUNTS.

The Roach and Dace love a gravelly, sandy Ground best, and lie in the clearest deepest and stillest

40 The Art of ANGLING

stillest Waters, that are most shaded, and also among Water-Docks, and under Water-lilly Leaves, especially in very hot, Sun-shine Weather.

Their Biting Time and Baits.

The Roach and Dace is to be fish'd for in Winter with Gentles or Maggots, but in April with Worms and Cadis, or Flies under Water, for he seldom takes them on the Top, tho' the Dace in many of the hot Months will rise above Water. Roaches may also be caught thus; take an Ant Fly sink him with a little Lead to the Bottom, near the Piles of a Bridge or Posts of a Ware, or any deep Place where they may lie quietly; pull your Fly up very leisurely, and you'll have a Roach generally follow your bait to the very top of the Water, gazing and running at it with the utmost eagerness; thus are great store of Roach caught: You may take both the Roach Dace or Dare with the Gentles or a young Wasp-grub, but when you Fish with them you must be sure to have a large Hook, a quick Eye, and a nimble Hand, or the Bait will be lost: They will bite at almost any Fly, but chiefly the Ant Fly: In the next place I shall inform you of a Winter-bait, for the Roach, Dace, or Chub; If you about the beginning of November, or sooner, follow the Plow, when at Work upon Heath or Sandy Ground, or turning up the Green-sward or Fresh Land, you'll find a white Worm with a red Head, about the bigness of two Maggots; It is all soft and full of whitish Guts; there's a Worm call'd in many Countries a Grub, bred from the Spawn or Eggs of a Beetle, which she leaves in holes which she digs in the Ground under Cow or Horse Dung, which remain there all the Winter, and in March or April turn

first

first to a red and then a black Beetle: Gather a hundred or two of these, put them with a Peck or two of their own Earth into a small Vessel, covering them down close to preserve them from the Cold & Frost: Thus you may keep them all the Winter, and Kill Fish with them at any time; yet I never found any bait in either Winter or Summer so good as Maggots or Gentles: There is another excellent Bait, which are Chandler's-Scratchings or Croats; it being very inconvenient for most Anglers who live not in a Town to provide Maggots: The Croat certainly is the best of Baits, except the Maggot, for Winter Fishing; and is to be managed thus: You must break them into middling pieces in a Kettle of cold Water, then put them over a gentle Fire 'till they are near boiling, which turns them almost white, and makes them very soft: then you must bait the Hole with some Part of them, and the whitest put round your Hook; thus angle with them as with a Maggot, and with a Hook of the same size that is, Number Six. Be sure you Fish either on the bottom or within an Inch of it, for at that time of the Year they lie very deep and close. These are certain baits from November 'till Candlemas, in case you cannot have Maggots: There are several other Sorts of Ground baits, as stew'd Malt, Grains, Sheep's or Calf's Blood, chopp'd very fine when it is cool, and Beast's Brains; all these are to be us'd as Ground baits to prepare for your Croat-Fishing: There are also many sorts of Cadis Worms, that are us'd most for Floät-Fishing: but these Baits are only for Trout or Greyling, which is not only much finer sport, but by much a more preferable Fish for Eating.

The Art of ANGLING Of the GUDGEON.

The Gudgeon is justly reputed a Fish of excellent Taste, very wholesome and nourishing: He is Leather-mouth'd, of a fine Shape, and Silver Colour, both his Body and Tail is beautifully adorn'd with black Spots.

His Haunts, and Spawning Time.

The Gudgeon is a River Fish, yet sometimes found in Ponds that are fed by Rills or Springs: He delights most in Gravelly and Sandy Ground, and in a slow Stream: Tho' he inhabits large Rivers, and oftentimes little Brooks, yet he is chiefly to be found in small Rivers of a fine Sandy Gravel bottom: In the hot Months they lie in much Shallower Waters, but all the rest of the Year from about Michælmas till April they dwell in the deepest places that are most Sandy: They Spawn in the latter end of April or May, and as some say three or four times in the Year.

His Biting time and Baits.

He is an admirable Fish to enter a young Angler, being easily taken with small Worms or Maggots; by mudding the Water and stirring up the Sand with a Pole, you may draw them together in Shoals and by now and then throwing in a few chopt Worms or Maggots, you may take great quantities of 'em, your bait must be on or near the Ground: They are usually scattered up and down the Shallows of every River in the heat of Summer, but in Autumn when the Weeds begin to grow Sour or rot, and the Weather begins to be cold, they keep together

gether in the deeper parts of the Water; and if you Angle for them with a Float or Cork, your Hook must always touch the Ground: But many Fish for the Gudgeon by hand with a running Line upon the Ground without a Float, and it is an excellent way if you have a tender Rod and as gentle a Hand: He bites all Day long from March 'till Michælnas, but will not bite in very cold Weather, nor for some time after his Spawning, nor immediately after a Shower or Land-Flood: He bites well in gloomy, warm, or hot Sun-shining Weather, but seldom bites before Sun-rising or after Sun-setting, but commonly begins about an Hour after the Sun rises, and ceases about an Hour before the Sun setts; fearing least he should be devoured by the larger kind of Fish which are at that time ranging for Food.

Of the RUFF or POPE.

The Ruff is a Fish not to be found in all Rivers; he very much resembles the Perch in his Shape, tho' he never attains to his Size, yet he is not inferior in Goodness: He is of a brown Colour, somewhat dusky above, and of a paleish yellow below; mark'd on the Jaws with a double course of half Circles: The upper part of the Eye is of a dark brown, and the lower somewhat yellowish, and the Ball of it black: All the Body is rough, cover'd with sharp and prickly Fins, which bristle up stiff when he is angry, but when appeas'd they fall flat again; there goes a straight line along his back, and his Fins and Tail are speck'd with black spots: This Fish is much commended for the wholesomeness and delicay of his Food, being a very firm and good Fish for his lize, which is not larger than that of the Gudgeon.

His Haunts and Spawning Time.

The Ruff is a very greedy Fish, and will bite very eagerly, and therefore very proper Game for the young Angler: They lie abundance of them together in a reserv'd place where the Water is deep and runs quietly; and when the young sportsman has once found out their haunt, he may catch 40 or 50, and sometimes double that Number at a standing: He Spawns about the beginning of April.

His Biting Time and Baits.

You must Angle for him with a small red Worm, he bites at the same time and is to be taken after the same manner as the Perch for both which kinds of Fish the River Ware that runs by Norwich is famous: they are also very plentiful in the Oxfordshire Rivers, and in the Teme which empties itself into the Severn near Worcester.

Of the BLEAK.

The Bleak, which is by some call'd the fresh Water Sprat, is a Fish ever in motion and therefore is sometimes call'd the River Swallow; for as the Swallow is observ'd in Summer Evenings to be in constant motion, making quick and short turns upon the Wing the more easily to catch the Fly's in the Air; so the Bleak is almost continually in Action in the Water, sporting himself with some little Flyes and Insects that float on the Surface: He is of a bright Whitish Colour; his Back is of a pleasant Sea-green, and his Belly shining and White as the Mountain Snow. The Bleak tho' generally reckon'd of no great Value, yet is a good Fish, in my
Opinion

Opinion, if dress'd almost as soon as taken: He has been frequently used to make a sort of Counterfeit Anchovy, and is often sold for the real, but for want of Skill in the manager by the common Artists, he has lost much of his Esteem. The Bleak is to be Angled for at Mid-water, with a Line and 5 or 6 small Hooks fasten'd at the distance of about half a Foot one above another. I have often taken four of 'em at one time by this means; the Bait has been small, well scour'd Maggots, than which there can be none better: They may be also taken with a very small fine Artificial black Gnat: 'Tis very pretty sport to whip for them in a Summer Evening from a Boat or Standing on the Bank-side, in a swift Water, with a Hazel-top about 5 or 6 feet long, and a Line twice the length of the Rod.

Of the CHARR and the GUINIAD.

In Winander Meer in the County of Westmoreland are caught a very singular sort of Fish call'd Charr, which are found no where else in England or Ireland, but are said to be in two Lakes at Snowden in Wales. In a small but rapid River call'd the Petterel that runs near Carlisle in the adjoining County of Cumberland, are caught Trouts about the same size with the Charr, that is, from a Foot to eighteen Inches, which are as fine in Colour, and when Potted are not easily distinguish'd in tast, and are frequently by the Inhabitants sent to London and sold as Char. They take the May Fly of both sorts, the Whirling Dun, and indeed all the other Flyes in their Season. This River falls into the main River Eden about a Mile North-East of the City of Carlisle, and about the same distance from the City Westward the River Gauda falls into the same: The Trouts in this River are much larger than

er than those in the Petterell, in which last are a peculiar Species of Trout call'd the Whiteing or White Trout; he has no spots but is of a beautiful fine Colour, and his Flesh as red as the Salmon; I believe he never exceeds twenty Inches in length, for I never caught one above that size, nor did I ever Converse with any Brother Sportsman that did. The Whirling Flyes to be used in Fishing for him cannot be made too Gay; they should be Ribb'd either with Gold or Silver twist, and the Cocks Hackle over all as rough as you please. In this River as well as in the main River Eden above the Salmon Fishery, is a sort of Trout call'd the Brandling, Clotded on the Back like a Mackrell but never grows to be above seven or eight Inches, and seems very much to resemble that sort of Fish which are call'd Gravel-last-springs in the Rivers Wye and Severn. In the East Riding of Yorkthire is a small but rapid River call'd Duffield Beck, in which are the finest Trouts for size and quantity of any Water I ever Fish'd in, being seldom less than two pounds and often five or six pounds in Weight. The River Dee which rises in Merionethshire runs thro' Pemble-Meer in Cheshire, which is a large Water, and abounds with a kind of Fish call'd a Guinad, as the River Dee does with Salmon; and yet it is Observable, that there are never any Salmon caught in the Meer, nor any Guiniad in the River.

Of the EELE.

There are three sorts of Eeles, the Silver Eele, the Green Eele, and the Black Eele: The Silver Eele has a fine dark brown Back, and white Belly, his Head very small and spearing: The Green Eele has a Back of a dark green Colour, with a Belly of a whitish Green, his Head is broad and flat like the

beak

Beak of a Duck. The Black Eele has a black Back yellow Belly and larger Head than the two former, and not reckon'd very wholesome Food, especially those that are found in Muddy Pools: The Silver Eele commonly loves gravelly, sandy, or stony Bottoms; they begin to come up the Rivers in the beginning of April if the Weather be warm, where they'll bite very well all the Summer 'till August, and continue 'till their Return which is between Michaelmas and Allhallantide according to the falling of the Rains and rising of the Rivers and Brooks, which disposes them to keep their Winter Quarters in the Sea or Salt Waters. It has been thought that River Eeles having once tasted the Sea Water never return back again, and therefore it is imagin'd that what ever Numbers of them are taken at Mills and other Places in their going down, can be no Prejudice to the Rivers, but this probably may be a mistake; for I have Convers'd with many Millers and Others in and about this Country whose Business it is to catch Eeles in their Wheels and Fishery's, who affirm that about twenty Years ago they could take five times the quantity they can now, which must be owing to the great Numbers of them that have been taken of late Years at the time of their running downwards: Those that happen to escape in their journey to the Salt-Water, remain there till their time of Breeding, which I take to be about the middle of April or sooner.

His manner of Breeding or Spawning.

There has been great difference of Opinions about the breeding of Eeles; some imagining that they are produced by means of the Dew which falls on the Water-side in the Months of May or June which being influenc'd and enliven'd by the Rays of the Sun

by

by Degrees are form'd into little Eeles. Others again have fancy'd that when Eeles grow old they breed out of the Corruption of their own Age, but these and other such idle Notions are justly rediculed and exploded by Naturalists, who however are not agreed among themselves whether the Eeles breed in the Oviparous or Viviparous Manner, that is, whether they proceed from Spawn or Eggs as most other Fish do, or whether the Females produces them alive. To satisfy the Curiosity of some of my Readers, I shall give them the best Information I could get in this Matter. Being acquainted with an elderly Woman who had been Wife to a Miller near fifty Years and much employ'd in dressing of Eels, I ask'd her whether she had ever found any Spawn or Eggs in those Eeles she open'd, and she said, she never had observ'd any, but that she had sometimes found Living Eeles in them about the Bigness of a small Needle, and particularly that she once cook out ten or twelve and put them upon the Table and found them to be alive, which was confirm'd to me by the rest of the Family: the Time of the Year when this happen'd was (as they inform'd me) about a Fortnight or three Weeks after Michaelmas, which makes me of Opinion that they go down to the Sea or Salt-Water to prepare themselves for the Work of propagating and producing their Young. To this I must add another Observation of the same Nature that was made by a Gentleman of Fortune not far from Ludlow and in the Commission of the Peace for the County of Salop. who going to visit a Gentleman his Friend, was shewn a very fine large Eele that was going to be dress'd, about whose Sides and Bell he observed a Parcel of little creeping Things, which at first made him suspect it had been kept too long, but upon a nearer Inspection they were found to be perfect little Eeles or Elvers.

Upon

Upon this it was immediately open'd in the sight of several other Gentlemen, and in the Belly of it they found a Lump about as big as a Nutmeg consisting of an infinite Number of those little Creatures closely wrapt up together, which being put into a Bason of Water, they soon separated themselves and swam about the Bason: This he has often told to several Gentlemen of Credit in his Neighbourhood, from some of whom I first receiv'd this Account, but I have lately had the Satisfaction of having it from his own Mouth; and therefore I think this may serve to put the matter out of all doubt, and may be sufficient to prove that Eeles are of the Viviparous kind: During the Winter Season they never stir up or down the Rivers or Pools wherein they usually are, but get into the soft Earth or Mud where many of them bed themselves together the better to defend them against the severity of the Winter, and there live without feeding upon any thing (as it is generally supposed,) they seldom appear in the Day time at other Seasons of the Year unless the Water be mudded and raised a little by Rain, but are usually caught in the Night. They are esteem'd a very delicious Fish for eating, and are in Season all the Year, and in their prime in May June, and July: They have been known to live five Days out of Water, the temperament of their Bodies being very moist. as is that of many other Fish whose shape and Nature are very much like the Eele and frequent both the Sea and fresh Rivers, as the Lamprey or Lamper-Eele, and also the large Conger or Sea-Eele, which are differently esteem'd according to the difference of their taste. The large Conger-Eeles are often taken in the Severn between Gloucester and Tewksbury, and below Warrington in Lancashire: But the Rivers Stour in Dorsetshire, the River Aukam in Lincolnshire, and Irk in Lan-

eshire have the preeminence above their neighbouring Streams for producing the best Eeles. The Severn and most Navigable Rivers that have a Communication with the Sea abound with infinite Numbers of small Eeles or Elvers, which come up the River sides in swarms early in the Spring as soon as the Sun begins to warm the Water: These are taken in large quantities, particularly in the Severn, which are made up into little Cakes and Sold in the Markets, they call the coming up of these young Eeles (which is very exact and regular as to time) the Elvers running: This little Fry is without doubt produced in the Salt-water by the Eeles that retired thither in Autumn.

His Biting time and Baits.

There are four sorts of Baits for taking Eeles at Bank-hooks. viz, the Lob-worm, Loach, Minnow, and Bull-head. The best Season for this is from the middle of May till the latter end of July; when the Weather cannot be too warm nor the Night too dark: One very good way for this sort of Sport, is to have a very strong Line that will reach across the River or Pond; then take several Hooks with Links to them about three quarters of a Yard in length, and tie them to your Line at about two Yards distance. When your Hooks are baited, fasten the one end of your Line to the bank near the River with a forked Stick; then having a piece of Lead or Stone fastened to the other end of the Line, cast it across the River or Pond, and let it lye all Night. With any of these four Baits, if sweet and fresh, you will infallibly have sport. Or you may Use any of the abovemention'd Baits with a Line about a Yard long fastened to the small end of a hooked Stick, and the Hook of it stuck fast in the bank,

and

and this method is indeed most properly call'd bank hook Fishing. Or else you may make tyes of three or four Yards in length, to be thrown in at the tops and bottoms of Streams with a Stone at each end, and baited in the same manner as the former. There is another method to take Eeles which is call'd Proaching, and is to be used from four o'Clock after a hot Day, till Sun-set: For this purpose You must have a strong top-rod about a Yard long with a Goose-quill put over the end of it, leaving the extreme end of the Quill whole; then taking a large strong Needle, and a Cat-gut for the Line, whip it very fast from the Eye of the Needle to the middle; then taking a well scoured Lob-worm, run the Eye of the Needle all up the Worm till it comes to the very head; so that the point of the Needle may come out at the middle of the Worm, then put the point of the Needle into the top of the Quill, and take the top Rod and Line both in your hand together; thus you may guide your bait under any hollow Wall or Stone very gently, and if there be any Eele he will bite at it; give him time enough till he has Gorged, and then you may be sure of him, if you do not attempt to pull him out of his Hold too suddenly but by degrees; for he lies enfolded therein, and will with the help of his Tail break off, unless you give him time to be wearied with pulling, and when he is so, you may draw him gently and slowly out. The best way of taking Eeles by common Angling, is to take a well scour'd red Worm and a Hook of the size No 4, with a float Line a foot shorter than the Rod; and having fixed upon some still quiet place with the most Sandy bottom you can find, take with you a considerable quantity of Wasp-grubs boil'd, or Bullock's Brains chopped fine to bait your hole with: You must not forget to take another Rod and Line, and

bait the one with the Worm and the other with the Wasp-grub, by this means you will be sure to find which they take best. There are a great many baits to take Eeles, but I look upon these I have mention'd to be as good if you tryed an hundred sorts, This is all I shall say about the Eele.

Of the MINNOW or PINK.

The Minnow when in right Season and not Sick, which happens only just after Spawning, is of a sort of dappled or waved Colour; his Sides inclin- ing to a Greenish and Sky-Colour, his Belly Milk White, and his Back almost Black. These little Fishes are all without Scales, but for excellency of taste may be compared to any of the larger sized. They are usually full of Eggs or Spawn all the Summer Months, for they breed often, and quickly arrive at their full growth and perfection: Their numerous and frequent breeding is very necessary on account of their being a Prey and Baits for other Fish. He is a very eager biter at a small Worm, and in hot Weather makes excellent sport for young Anglers, Boys, or Women that love the Recreation. He appears first in March and continues till Michaelmas, and then betakes himself to Mudd, Weeds, or Wood in the Rivers to secure himself from Floods and Fishes of Prey. His biting time is from an Hour after Sun-rising till an Hour before Sun-setting. His chief Bait is a small Worm either at Mid-water or near the bottom: Use a Float in Angling for him.

Of the LOACH.

The Loach is of a delicate taste and very whole-
some

some: He breeds and feeds in little and clear swift Brooks or Rills, living on the Gravel, and in the sharpest Streams. His growth is not above a Finger's length, and his thickness proportionable: He somewhat resembles the Eele in Shape; has a Beard or Wattles, and a Mouth form'd like the Barbel he has two Finns at his Sides, four at his Belly, and one at his Tail, and is dappled with many black or brown Spots. This Fish is Usually full of Eggs or Spawn, and is esteem'd very nourishing & grateful to the Palate and Stomach of sick Persons. He is to be Fish'd for with a very small Worm at the bottom, for he seldom or never rises above the Gravel.

Of the BULL-HEAD OF MILLER'S THUMB.

The Bullhead is a Fish of no pleasing Shape, and compared to the Sea Toad-Fish: His Head is large or flat very disproportionable to his Body, his Mouth wide and usually gaping, he has no Teeth but his Lips are rough like a File, he has two Finns near his Gills which are roundish or crested, two under his Belly, two on his Back, one below the Vent, and the Tail Finn is round: He is speckled with Whitish, Blackish, and Brownish Spots: They are generally full of Eggs or Spawn all the Summer, which swell their Vents almost into the form of a Dug: They begin to Spawn about April: They hide themselves in holes or amongst Stones in clear Water, and are easily seen upon any flat Stone, or on the Gravel, at which time the most inexpert Angler may take him with a small Worm. He is commended more for his Taste and Nourishment, than for his Shape and Beauty.

Of the STICKLEBACK or JACK-SHARP.

This is a very small insignificant Fish; his Body is fenced with several little Prickles which are very sharp and pungent, from whence he has his Name: This Fish is mention'd only as he makes up the Number of fresh Water Fish, being too inconsiderable to afford the Angler any Sport, unless it be to serve as a bait for a Trout to be used with a swivel Line; for which purpose he is equally good as the Pink or Minnow.

Of the LAMPREY.

This Fish comes up out of the Salt Water about the same time as the Shad. and is of as little service to the diversion of the Angler, refusing all sorts of Baits, and being usually taken in Wheels or Baskets made of Twigs and fix'd in the bottom of the Water for that purpose: The Lamprey may very properly be said to be the Water Viper from the uncommon highness and delicacy of his Flavour, for which reason they are commonly sold at an excessive price at their first coming, and when stew'd or potted are greatly admir'd by the Curious. He is commonly of the size and length of a large Eele and somewhat rounder and fuller in the Body. His Back and Sides are variegated and clouded not unlike the Mackrell: He has a roundish open Mouth of a disagreeable form, tho' necessary for the purpose of his Subsistence which is by suction, for which reason he has several large round holes on each side for the reception and emission of the Water. They are very plentiful in the River Severn about Gloucester and upwards as far as Worcester. There is another sort which are commonly taken about November
called

called Lamperns, which are exactly of the same form and shape but much less, not exceeding the thickness of one's Thumb: These are generally thought to differ from the Lamprey in the same manner as the Samlet does from the Salmon.

Of the SHAD.

The Shad is a Fish that comes up out of the Salt Water early in the Spring, into the larger Rivers that have a Communication with the Sea, and is very differently esteem'd according to the Rivers he comes into: In the Severn he is a very delicious good Fish, especially the large ones, and by some not reckon'd inferior even to the Salmon: Whereas in the Thames about London he is disregarded as a coarse Fish, good for little except the brightness of his Scales which are commonly made into Necklaces pretty near the resemblance of Pearl: He has a small Head in proportion to his size, a thick back, and a deep broad Body growing taper towards the Tail. He is in season from the time of his coming up till the middle of May, when the heat of the Weather makes him lean and full of small Bones. He affords the Angler no sport, being to be taken with no Bait that I know of, otherwise would have deserv'd a place among the descriptions of the best kinds of Fish. There is an instance of a Gentleman who caught one with an artificial Fly in the River Teme near Worcester, but I imagine he took it more out of Wantonness than hunger.

Of FLY-FISHING.

I am now come to the most entertaining and delightful part of the Sportsman's diversion, Fly-Fishing:

Fishing; of which nothing can be said too much in it's Commendation. If the other branches of Angling are both pleasant and profitable, this is much more so upon many Accounts: It is the cleanest and neatest that can possibly be imagin'd, being quite free from the trouble of baiting your Hook or fouling your Fingers: The Exercise it requires you to take is moderate and gentle, not being confined long to any one part of the River, but moving from Stream to Stream. The Fish that are caught in this manner are of the best and most delicate sorts and when the Weather and Water are favourable, commonly in great Numbers. Even the preparation of the Materials for the artificial Fly, and the skill and contrivance in making them, and comparing them with the natural, is a very pleasing amusement: The manner of the Fishes taking them, which is by rising to the surface of the Water, and sometimes out of it, gives the Angler a very agreeable surprize, and the length of the Line greatly adds to the pleasure of tiring and killing them after they are hook'd. But I hasten to the Art itself.

Of the several Sorts of FLYES, and their Seasons.

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 The Red Fly. | 11 Sally Fly. |
| 2 Blue-dun Fly. | 12 Canon, or Down-hill Fly. |
| 3 Brown Fly. | 13 Shorn Fly. |
| 4 Cow-dung Fly. | 14 May Fly. |
| 5 Stone Fly. | 15 Grey Drake. |
| 6 Granam Fly. | 16 The Owl Fly. |
| 7 Spider Fly. | 17 Sky-colour'd blue Fly. |
| 8 Black Gnat. | 18 Cadis Fly. |
| 9 Black Caterpillar Fly. | 19 Fern Fly. |
| 10 Iron-blue Fly. | |

Red

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 20 Red Spinner. | 25 Little Red Ant. |
| 21 The Blue Gnat. | 26 Little Black Ant. |
| 22 The large Red Ant. | 27 Little whirling Blue. |
| 23 The large black Ant. | 28 Little Pale Blue. |
| 24 Welshman's Button. | 29 The Willow Fly. |

These are all very tempting and certain Flies which the Angler may depend upon for sport, and which I shall presently describe in their Seasons. There are many other Flies taken Notice of in Treatises of Angling which may possibly be of Use in some Rivers, the principal of which I shall just mention for the Curiosity of some of my Brother Anglers, but I never think it worth while to make any of them Artificially.

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|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 The Dun Fly. | 13 Camlet Fly. |
| 2 The Ruddy Fly. | 14 Fern Fly. |
| 3 The Black Fly. | 15 Oak Fly. |
| 4 Sandy Yellow Fly. | 16 Owl Fly. |
| 5 Moorish Fly. | 17 Brown Gnat. |
| 6 Twine Fly. | 18 Green Shining Flesh Fly. |
| 7 Wasp Fly. | 19 Harry long Legs. |
| 8 Shell Fly. | 20 Hearth Fly. |
| 9 Dark-Drake Fly. | 21 Badger Fly. |
| 10 Dark Brown Fly. | 22 Yellow Dun Fly. |
| 11 Prime Dun Fly. | |
| 12 Black May Palmer Worm. | |

These are mention'd, as I said, only for Curiosity or Variety, therefore I proceed to the description of those in my first Catalogue.

The Red FLY.

Comes down the latter end of February, and
continues

continues till the middle of March: He is made of a dark Drake's Feather, and the Body of a Red Hackle, and the Red part of Squirrels Furr: He has four Wings, and they lye flat upon his Back: He comes on plentifully in cold stormy Days.

The Blue Dun FLY.

Comes down in the beginning of March, and will Kill Fish in the forenoon till the middle of April: He is made of a blue Duck's Feather or Starling's Wing with a blue Cock's hackle, the Dubbing yellow Mohair mixed with the blue Furr of a Fox: As he swims down the Water, his Wings stand upright on his Back: His Tail is forked, and of the Colour of his Wing: He comes down about ten o'Clock and continues till twelve in great quantities: He is always thick on the Water in Cloudy, Gloomy Days. You may Fish with a Worm in the Morning 'till the Flyes come down, which will not err above half an hour or an hour from the time mention'd, and then if the Water be in order for the Fly is your time to begin to use it.

The Brown FLY, or Dun DRAKE.

Begins to come about the middle of March, and continues till the middle of April if it be a favourable Spring. He is made of a Partridge or Pheasant's Feather, the Body of a Partridge's hackle with Hare's Furr under it ribb'd with yellow Silk: This Fly was formerly made of a dun Drake's Feather with Hare's Furr only. which in my opinion is not the colour of the Fly. The Red Fly, the Blue Fly, and the Brown Fly frequently appear upon the Water all at one time; but there is no necessity of Fishing with

with the Red Fly after they have tasted the Blue Fly : They take the Blue Fly in the Morning till the Brown Fly comes on, which he does about Eleven and then they take the Brown till two or three o'Clock. In this order they continue till the latter end of the Month. There are four or five sorts of Flyes in April. which I shall mention immediately, only observe in general that Fly which comes first according to the month is the first Fly that is to be used that Day, and then you will see the other Flyes coming down according to their time, and you may observe the Fish leave the former and take the latter. And thus they continue their succession in their several Days, Weeks and Months.

The Cow dung FLY.

Comes on about the middle of March and continues till the latter end of April, but is not to be Fish'd with unless it be a Cold Windy Day. His Wings are made with the blue Feather of a Hen tip'd with Yellow ; they lye flat on his Back : His Body is made of Lemon-colour'd Mohair with a yellow Feather about it. He is to be made in the same form as the large Horse Ant Fly.

The Stone FLY.

Comes in the beginning of April and continues till the latter end of May. He is chiefly to be Fish'd with from about the break of Day till seven in the Morning : Likewise from seven in the Evening all Night long (if thought proper) either in the natural or artificial way. They are to be found in little Stony Brooks ; They are to be Fish'd with in the

natural way, upon a small Worm-hook, and drawn upon the Shank of it, with a Line about a Yard longer than the Rod, and used in a middle Water. This Fly artificially is made with the Brown Feather of a Hen. His Belly is of a dirty Yellow, and his Back of a dark Brown. His Body is made of a Yellow or Brown Spaniel's Hair, or Mohair with a grizzled hackle of a Cock round it. This Fly Natural or Artificial, is to be Fish'd with in deep rapid Streams.

The Granam Fly, or Green Tail.

Comes about a Week in April, if the Weather be mild; they appear upon the Water in great quantities in bright Mornings; but in cold stormy Days there are but few of them to be seen: Then is the time to use the Brown Fly. This Granam Fly is a tender Fly and not able to endure the Cold. The time of it's continuance on the Water is not above a Week or nine Days. This Fly is made of a Feather out of the Wing of a Pheasant, which is full of fine Shades as the Wing of the Fly is, which lye flat on his Back as he swims down the Water: His Body is made of the black part of Hare's Furr, with a Peacock's harl over it, and the grizzled Hackle of a Cock wrap'd twice round under the butt of the Wings. Some frequently make this Fly with a Green Tail, which I could never find to be of any Service. The Green Tail Fly is the female, which as soon as it lights on the Water looses its Tail. I take this to be the Egg of the Fly, for I have caught two of them which have been tyed together which I put into a Box for 24 Hours, and upon opening the Box I found they were parted, and that one of 'em had a small lump of Green at it's Tail about the bigness of a Pin's head; This I kept 12 hours

And Compleat Fly-Fisher. 61

hours longer, when the Green part came from it like an Egg, which induces me to think that this is the Female Fly, and I presume that most other Flies breed after the same Manner.

The Spider FLY.

Comes about the 15th or 16th of April if it be a favourable Spring: The Wings are made of a Woodcock's Feather that lyes under the butt end of his Wing; the Body of a Lead-colour'd Silk, with a black Cock's hackle twice or thrice round: The Body is to be made in the shape of the Ant Fly. This Fly appears in bright and warm Days, and comes out of Beds of Gravel by the Water side, where you may find them in Bunches from the 15th to the 25th of the Month in warm Sunshining Days, but in Cold and Stormy Days they disappear. During their Season they are found cover'd up in Beds of Gravel, and all engendering in order to their production the next Season. This Fly never appears in any Month of the Year but April.

The Black GNAT.

Comes on at the same time. His Wing is made of a light Sky-colour'd Blue hackle, the Body of an Ostridge's Feather. This Gnat is to be used in cold stormy Days, and continues till the latter end of May.

The Black Caterpillar FLY.

Comes about the middle of April if it be warm Weather. His Wings are made of a Jay's Feather, one part blue and the other part black: His Body

is made of a Feather out of the top of a Plover, with a dark hackle over it. The Body of this Fly is of a fine Shag like unto Velvet, which the Plovers Feather makes incomparably well: He continues till the middle of May, and is to be Fish'd with after warm hot Mornings, provided there come Winds and Clouds, for then they grow weak for loss of the Sun, and fall upon the Water in great quantities.

The little Iron-Blue FLY:

Begins to come down the beginning of May, and is in the greatest perfection about the middle of the month. There are few of them to be seen in warm or hot Weather, but in cold and stormy Days they come in great quantities. The Wing of this Fly is made of a Cormorant's Feather that lyes under the Wing in the same form as those of a Goose. The Body is made with the furr of a Wout or Mole, or rather Water-Rat's furr if you can have it, and ribb'd with Yellow Silk, and a grizel'd hackle wrapt twice or thrice round: His Wings stand upright on his back, with a little forked Tail. This is a Fly which the Grayling greatly admire. He continues from the middle of May till the middle of June.

The Yellow Sally FLY.

Comes about the 20th of May and continues till the latter end of the same Month. His Wings are made of a Yellow Cock's hackle, by reason of its shining Glossiness which no dyed Colour can come up to: He has four Wings which lye flat to his Back: His Body is made of yellow Dubbing mix'd with dark brown Furr, with a Yellow hackle round
it

it. This Fly, the Cannon Fly, and the Shorn Fly, are the three Flyes that prepare the Fish to look for the Yellow Cadow or May-Fly.

The Canon FLY.

Comes down about a Fortnight in May, and is an exceeding good Fly for bobbing at the Bush in the natural way, or for the long Line in the Artificial. He continues till the yellow Cadow comes down, and is to be found on the Butts of Oaks and other Trees near the Water side with his head commonly downwards, for which reason he has generally obtain'd the name of the Down-hill Fly. His Wings are made of a Feather out of a Wood-cock's Wing, his Body is made of a Bittern's Feather. This Fly (as I have lately been inform'd by a Gentleman of Veracity) is bred in those little Balls which grow on the Boughs of large Oaks, commonly call'd Oak-Apples, which he accidentally discover'd by opening several of these Balls which had been gather'd in the Winter, and brought into the House in each of which was found the Canon Fly, some of which being enliven'd by the warmth of the Room, immediately took flight and fix'd in the Window with the head downwards, the position they observe in the Trees.

The Shorn FLY.

Comes down about the same time, and continues till the middle of June: He is frequently found in mowing Grats, has a husky Wing of a dark brown Colour, with fine clear blue Wings under them, which he makes use of in his flight. This Fly is of the Caterpillar kind, and the female Fly is of a dull Red.

Red. They are in greatest perfection about Mowing time, for after the mowing Grass is cut there are few to be seen. This is as Killing a Fly as any I know till the May Fly comes in, yet has been but very little Notice taken of by Anglers. This is the only Fly to Fish with in the Forenoon, before the May Fly or yellow Cadow comes down, and his continuance on the Water is the same as the yellow ones. The Wings of this Fly are made of a Jay's Feather taken out of the Wing, mix'd with a little black and blue, and the body is made with Flesh-colour'd Silk and a red hackle about it. This Fly will never fail Killing Fish if the Water be in Order.

The May FLY, or Yellow CADOW.

Comes down the Water about a Week in May, but is not in full perfection till the 20th, or between that and the 30th. It is a prodigious Killing Fly as well upon standing Waters as upon Streams. The Wings of this Fly are made of the Feather of a Grey Drake dyed Yellow: The Body is made of the yellow Wool of a Ram or Wether: His Body is ribb'd with a dark Brown which no Feather suits so well as the hackle of a Bittern: It likewise makes the legs very artificially: His Head is of a very dark Brown, and made with a Peacock's harl: His Wings stand upright on his Back as he swims down the Water, with a long forked Tail made with the Hair or Whisks of a Fitchow's Tail. This is a very large Fly, and is to be made upon a small Worm-hook of the size commonly call'd by Anglers No 4. This Fly is most plentiful in gravelly or stony Rivers, and but few to be seen on dead dull Waters. This Fly and the Grey Drake, which succeeds him are the Fishes chief delight about all others; for
there

there is no other bait, either Fly or Insect which the Fish shew themselves at so much or so boldly as they do at these Flies, they not only take them very eagerly at the top of the Water, but as they come from the bottom or sides where they are bred, for they rise from the bottom in husks, which they quit when they come to the top of the Water, and are bred in the same form and manner as the Butter Fly. During their Season they are a most plentiful food for Birds as well as Fish. They come on the Water about ten o'Clock and continue till Sun setting, and tho' there are hundreds of Flies and Insects on the River the same Day, both Fish and Birds will forsake them all and take these: It has been an opinion generally receiv'd among my Brother Anglers that the May Fly proceeds from the Cod-bait, but I find by experience that this is a very great mistake. for the Cod-bait produces a very different Fly, call'd the Cadis or Cod-bait Fly, which I shall presently have occasion to describe: And I have lately had an opportunity of convincing some Gentlemen very Curious in the Art, who were of that opinion till they had the Satisfaction of seeing the Cadis Flies produced from Cod-baits which I sent for that purpose about the time of their change. The May Fly, when in Embrio, is inclos'd in a longer and much smaller Husk, which is sharp and pointed at one end like a Cock's Spur.

The Grey DRAKE.

Comes about a Week or nine Days after the former if the Weather be cool, but if it be hot and sultry he will be on in three or four Days after the yellow one, but you must not mind him, to Fish with him, till 4 or 5 Days after he is come, except it be in the Evenings from 6 o'Clock till Sun-setting

For tho' the Fish take the yellow one very well in the former part of the Day, yet when these come on in great quantities in the Evening, they will not touch the yellow one. In Fishing with this Fly, you must endeavour to imitate the rising and falling of him upon the Water, for he never swims so regularly down the Water as the yellow one does, but is generally in motion frisking up and down, for which Reason he is in some places call'd the Tilt-up Fly. Some are of opinion, that this is a very difficult Fly to make, but I think it is not so difficult to make him, as to Fish with him after he is made; and therefore, if possible, cast your Line so as to drop directly over the Fish's head, which will best resemble the manner of this Fly's dropping on the Water, when the Fish immediately fly at him: But all other Flyes ought to be thrown a Yard above the head of the Fish, because they all swim gradually down the Water. The Wings of this Fly are made, some part of a Grey Drake's Feather, mix'd with the Grey part of a Widgeon's Feather; the Body is best made of a fine Oaten Straw, because it is least liable to change it's Colour. Several make it of white Cotton, but if you make it thus, there must be a good deal of Silver Twist with it. Be sure you Ribb it very thick towards the Tail with the dark hackle of a Bittern, and leave the Body clear towards the Butt end of the Wing. His Tail is three forked about an Inch and half long, which is made of the long Hairs or Whisks out of the Tail of a Fitchow: his Head is of a dark Brown, made with a Peacock's harl. The Male and Female Fly of the yellow Sort are both of the same Colour, but of the Grey they are somewhat different; the Female is best made of the Oaten Straw, with a light Grey Drake's Feather for the Wing, and the Male with most of the Widgeon's

And Compleat Fly-Fisher. 67

eon's Feather for the Wing, and the Body most of Silver Twist with a little Cotton. — Since I entered upon this Work, the following ingenious account of this Fly has been communicated to me by a Gentleman who is a very accurate observer upon nature's productions, which as it may be matter of Curiosity and Entertainment to some of my Readers I shall here give them as briefly and as near his own Words as I can. — I happen'd to Walk by the River side at that Season of the Year when the May Flyes (he means the Grey sort) which are a species of the Libella, come up out of the Water, where they lye in their husks for a considerable time at the bottom or sides of the River near the likeness of the Nymph of the small common Libella; but when it is mature it splits open it's case, and then with great Agility up Springs the new little Animal with a slender Body, four blackish Vein'd transparent Wings, with four black Spots on the Upper Wings, and the under Wings much smaller than the upper ones, with three long Hairs in it's Tail. The Husks which are left behind float innumerable on the Water. It seem'd to me a species of Ephemeron, and I imagin'd it was the same Insect describ'd by Goodart and Swammerdam, but a few Days convinc'd me to the contrary; for I soon found them to be of longer duration than theirs. The first business of this Creature (after he is disengaged from the Water) is flying about to find out a proper place to fix on (as Trees, Bushes, &c.) to wait for another surprising change which is effected in two or three Days. The first hint I receiv'd of this wonderful Operation was seeing their Exuviae hanging on a Hedge: I then collected a great many and put them in Boxes, and by strictly observing them, I could tell when they were ready to put off their Cloaths; tho' but so lately put on. I had the

pleasure to shew my Friends one that I held on my Finger all the while it perform'd this great Work. It was surprizing to see how easily the back part of the Fly split open and produced the new Birth, which I could not perceive partakes of any thing from its Parent, but leaves Head, Body, Wings, Legs, and even it's three hair'd Tail behind on the Case. After it has repos'd itself a while, it Flyes with great briskness to seek it's mate. In the new Fly a remarkable difference is seen in their Sexes, which I could not so easily perceive in their first State, the Male and Female being then much of a size, but now the Male was much the smallest, and the Hairs in his Tail much the longest. I was very careful to see if I could find them ingendering, but all that I could discover was that the Males separated and kept under cover of the Trees remote from the River, hither the Females resorted and mix'd with them in their flight (great Numbers together) with a very brisk motion of darting or striking at one another when they met, with great Vigour, just as House Flyes will do in a Sunny Room: This they continued to do for many Hours, and this seem'd to be their way of Coition, which must be quick and soon perform'd as they are of so short duration. When the Females were impregnated, they left the Company of the Males and sought the River, and kept constantly playing up and down on the Water. It was very plainly seen every time they darted down they Ejected a Cluster of Eggs, which seem'd a pale blueish Speck, like a small drop of Milk, as they descend'd on the Water; then by the help of their Tail they Spring up again, and descend again, and thus continue till they have exhausted their stock of Eggs, and spent their Strength being so weak that they can rise no more, but fall a prey to the Fish; but by much the greatest Numbers

bers perish on the Waters, which are cover'd with them. This is the end of the Females, but the Males never resort to the Rivers as I could perceive but after they have done their Office, drop down, languish and die under the Trees and Bushes. I observ'd that the Females were most numerous, which was very necessary considering the many Enemies they have, during the short time of their Appearance, for both Birds and Fish are very fond of them, and no doubt under the Water they are a Food for small Aquatick Insects. What is further remarkable in this surprizing Creature is, that in a life of a few Days, it eats nothing, seems to have no apparatus for that purpose, but brings up with it out of the Water sufficient support, to enable it to shed it's Skin, and perform the principal end of life with great Vivacity. The particular time when I observ'd them very numerous and sportive, was on the 26th of May, at 6 o'Clock in the Evening, It was a sight very surprizing and entertaining to see the Rivers teeming with innumerable pretty nimble flying Insects, and almost every thing near cover'd with them: When I look'd up into the Air, it was full of them as high as I could discern, and being so thick and always in motion, they made almost such an Appearance as when one looks up and sees the Snow coming down; and yet this wonderful appearance in three or four Days after the last of May, totally disappear'd.

The Orle Fly.

Comes down the latter end of May or the beginning of June, and continues till the latter end of June, and is the best Fly to Fish with after the May Flyes are gone. The Wings of this Fly are made of a dark grizel'd Cock's hackle, and the Body of a Peacock's

Peacock's harl, with very dark red Silk: He has four Wings which lye close to his Back as he swims down the Water: This Fly is to be Fish'd with in the warmest Weather, and you may use it with success from about ten o'Clock till four in the Afternoon, at which time the Fish leave off the Oyle Fly, and take

The Sky-colour'd Blue.

Which is on at the same Season, but never appears till the Evenings after a very hot day: His Wings are made of a Feather of a light blue Hen with a yellowish Gloss, and the Body seems as he flies of a bright yellow, but is made of a light blue Furr mixed with a bright yellow with a silver grizled Hackle over it: This Fly comes about the Middle of June and continues till the Middle of July.

The Cadis FLY.

Which I before mention'd to proceed from the Godbait, begins to come about a Week in June. It is a large Fly, has four pale yellow Wings all of one Colour: His Body is of a pale yellow Ribb'd with a dark Brown. The Wings are made of a yellow Hen's Feather: The Body is made of a Buff-colour'd yellow Furr, Ribb'd with a dark brown Silk, with a yellow hackle three times round. This Fly continues till about a Week in July before they are all gone: He is chiefly to be Fish'd with at the clearing of the Water after it has been discolour'd, when no other Fly will do so well. The dwelling place of this little Creature while in the State of a Grub, is greatly to be admired, being made of a small Husk curiously wrought on the outside with small

And Compleat Fly-Fisher. 7r

Small bits of Gravel and Slime after the manner of Stucco Work. The Grub itself is a very choice bait at bottom Fishing, as will be shewn in its place.

The Fern FLY.

Comes in about the latter end of June, and does not continue above a Week: He has four Wings; that stand upright on his Back: His Wings and Body are made of a Wood-cock's Feather Ribb'd with Orange colour'd Silk: He is to be Fish'd with in a Morning the first of any Fly, till about eleven o' Clock, and then you may change your Fly according to the brightness or dullness of the Day, for there are many Flyes on at that time.

The Red SPINNER.

Comes down the beginning of July, and continues till the middle of the same Month: He is to be Fish'd with only in the Evenings of very hot Days. His Wings are made of a Grey Drake's Feather lightly ting'd with a yellow Gloss: His Body is made of Gold Twist, with a red hackle over it.

The Blue GNAT.

Comes down at the same time. It does not avail to Fish with him, unless the Water be very low and fine, and then in hot Weather he is sometimes taken very freely for about nine Days. The Wings of this Gnat are made of a light-blue Cock's hackle, the Body of the blue Furr of a Fox mix'd with a little Yellow.

The

The large Red Ant FLY.

As well as the Black, comes in about the middle of June, if the Weather be hot, and continue for about a Week or nine Days. Observe that these two Ant Flyes that come first, are the two large Horse Ants. The Wings of this Red Fly are made of a Feather out of the Wing of a Starling of a little dusky Colour: The Body is made of Hog's down dyed of an Amber Colour: He must be made very large at the Tail, and small towards the Wing, with a Red Cock's hackle wrapp'd twice round under the butt end of the Wing.

The large Black Ant FLY.

Comes down at the same time. The Wings of this Fly are to be made of the lightest Sky-colour'd blue Feather you can get and with the greatest Gloss, of which it will be difficult to find any that can come up to the Glossiness of the natural Wing, the Body is made with a black Ostridges Feather, with a black Cock's hackle wrapt twice round under the Wing: He is to be made in the same Form as the Red one.

The Welshman's BUTTON.

Or Hazle Fly, comes in the latter end of July: It has an husky outer Wing, with a little dark blue under it and is as round as a Button, from whence he has his Name, He is to be found upon hazle Trees or Fern Bushes; and as soon as you touch the Bushes he drops down, he is good for bobbing at the Bush in this Month as the Cannon or Down-hill Fly is in May. The Wing is made of a dark Hackle Feather

And Compleat Fly-Fisher. 73

Feather of a Pheasant, and the Body is made of the dark part of Camel's hair.

The little Red and Black Ant FLYS :

Comes down in the beginning of August: They very seldom appear upon the Water till between one and four in the Afternoon: They are made of the Materials that the large ones are, and in the same Shape, but about twice as small.

The little Whirling Blue.

Comes down the beginning of August, and continues about a Fortnight: The Wings are made of the Blue Feather of a Sea-Gull: The Body is made of the Red part of Squirrel's furr Ribb'd with yellow and a Red hackle over it: This Fly is only to be Fish'd with in the Evenings, and in warm Weather.

The little pale Blue.

Comes down the beginning of August, and continues till the middle of September: It is a Fly that the Grayling greatly admire, which are in great perfection at this Season, and give the Angler much sport. The Wings of this Fly are made of the lightest blue Feather of a Sea Swallow: the body is made of the bluest part of a Fox's furr with a very little yellow Mohair mix'd with it; Ribb'd with a Straw colour'd Silk, with a fine pale blue Hackle over it. This Fly continues in Season till the Willow Fly comes, and afterwards till the Weather grows cold.

74 The Art of ANGLING

The Willow FLY.

Comes on about the middle of August, or sometimes sooner, and continues till the Dun blue comes on again: He has four Wings which lye flat to his Back, his Belly is of a dirty yellow, and his Back of a dark Brown: His Wings are made of a Dun Cock's hackle a little freckled: His Body Squirrel's furr, Ribb'd with yellow Silk, and cover'd lightly with the same colour'd hackle with the Wing. In cold stormy Days you must fish chiefly with this Fly, but in warm gloomy Days you must fish with the pale Blue; and these two Flyes carry out the Season for Fly-fishing.

From the latter end of May till the beginning of August, you will find 15 or 16 different sorts of Flyes and Gnats on the Water every day, and then if the Weather be warm you must observe it as a general rule to fish with the first Fly that comes on in a Morning, for that Fly which is first mention'd in every Month is the first Fly that comes down in the Day, and is to be fish'd with first, and then you will see the other Flyes coming down gradually every one according to his time, and as the Fish leave off one and take another you must vary your Fly according to your discretion and observation. From about the middle of August you will find most of the other Flyes fall off, except the little Whirling-blue, the Pale-blue, and the Willow-Fly (and some little Gnats that are of little or no signification) and these three Autumn Flyes I reckon to be of equal Value and in equal proportion to the three prime spring Flyes, that is to say, the Red Fly, the Blue dun, and the Brown Drake. In these two Seasons if the Weather and Water be favourable you will find your sport more certain and regular than in the hotter Months, one reason of which

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among others, is that in the hotter Months the Rivers abound with an infinite variety of Flies and Insects, which makes the Fish more difficult to be taken, and particularly in the Spring season you have the advantage of having the Rivers fuller of Fish before they are disturb'd or destroy'd by Nets, &c Thus I have given you a full Account of all the Flies and Gnats that are most necessary for Angling except two Salmon Flies, and two Night Flies which yet remain to be describ'd. These Flies which I have already mention'd, are found on all Rivers I ever was acquainted with, only the May Fly and the Grey drake are much more scarce on some Rivers than they are upon others, and therefore where they are scarce, and the Fish not well acquainted with them, there is less sport to be expected than where they are plentiful. It is commonly said that Flies differ according to their Rivers, but I will be bold to say they are all alike in their kinds, there may possibly be some little difference in their Colours arising from the nature of the Soil thro' which the Rivers run, or from the difference of Men's fancies; but if every River were to produce different sorts of Flies and Insects, there would be a thousand times more than there are. The First of the two Salmon Flies I mention'd is called

The Dragon FLY.

He feeds himself on little Insects that are scarce discernable by the naked Eye: I have taken great Numbers of these out of the Mouth of one of these Flies; they feed on them in the same manner as Swallows do. by Elying at them. The Head of this Fly is almost all Eyes, he has four Wings of a dark brownish Colour, and his Body is of the same.

The Body's of some of them are two Inches and an half long. This Fly comes about the middle of May and continues till the latter end of July. There is another of this sort called the

King's Fisher, or Peacock FLY.

This Fly feeds on the same Insects with the former: He is called the King's-Fisher from the beautyfulness of his Colour; but I should think the Peacock Fly to be the most proper name for him, for there can be nothing so like as the Feather that grows on the neck of the Peacock is to this Fly's Wings and Body: He comes in about the same time with the former and continues three Weeks or a Month longer. There are in the last place, to be described a Couple of Night Flyes, one of which is

The Brown Night FLY

He's made of the brown Feather of a Hen, and the Body of the same Colour. This is properly a Moth which flies by Night only: He is to be fish'd with (if you are inclin'd to Night-fishing) in a dark gloomy Night after a bright Day. When you Fish in this manner, use a Line about a Yard longer than the Rod, and put a couple of Maggots at the point of the hook, which will be of great advantage as to the smelling part. It will take Fish both in Streams and standing Waters, and you may hear them rise in as much perfection as if you were fishing by Day, and will continue so to do till break of Day, if it be a cloudy gloomy Night; but if it be a Moon-shining and Star light Night, they will not stir at these Flyes any more than they will at the Day-Flyes in a bright Day. The other is

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The White Night FLY.

Which in my opinion is the best of the two: This is made of the white Owl's Feather on account of the softness of it. This Fly is to be made upon a middle siz'd Worm-hook, the Body of the same colour with the Wing, and as big as a very large wheat Straw: He is in the greatest perfection about the latter end of May, and continues till the latter end of June. He that goes out with an intent of Killing a dish of Fish in the day time and fails of success, may be sure of Killing them by Night, if he is so disposed, while this Night Fly is upon the Water.

Having now given a principal account of the principal Flies in their several Seasons requisite to furnish out the diversion of my Brother Anglers, with the proper materials for making each Fly: It will be necessary before I conclude the Subject of Fly-fishing, to lay down the best directions I can for making the Artificial Fly.

The manner of making the Artificial FLY.

When you make an artificial Fly, you must in the first place make choice of a Hook of a size proportionable to the Fly you intend to make, which is to be whip'd on to your Indian Grass, or Gut, or Hair, in the same manner as you would whip on a Worm Hook, only with this difference, that instead of fastening near the bend of the Hook, (as is usual in the other way) you must fasten your Silk near the top of the shank, and let your Silk remain, then taking as much Feather as is necessary for the Wings,
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lay it as even as you can upon the upper side of the Shank, with the butt end of the Feather downwards towards the bend of the Hook, and tye it fast three or four times round with the Silk, and fasten it; then with a Needle or Pin divide the Wings as equal as you can; then take your Silk and cross it three or four times between the Wings, bringing the Silk still downwards towards the bend of the Hook, then taking your hackle Feather, tye it fast at the bend with the point of the hackle upwards: Next, your furr or dubbing being ready, which is to make the Body of the Fly, take a little of it and twist it gently round your Silk, and work it upwards to the butt of the wings, and there fasten it, then take your hackle and Ribb it neatly over the dubbing and fasten it, then bending the Wings and putting them into the form you design, bring on the butt end of your hackle towards the Head, and there fasten it firm; then taking a bit of dubbing or furr as near to the colour of the head of the Fly as you can, whip it twice or thrice round with your Silk, and then fasten just above the Wings, so your Fly is completed.

I Confess no directions can well be given for making a Fly, the way of doing it sometimes varying according to the sort of Fly you are to make, or according to the fancy of the Artist; yet these rules with a little practice, will in some measure assist an ingenious Angler; but to see a Fly made by a skilful hand is the best manner of learning: It is also very necessary to take Notice as you walk by the River, of the particular kind of Fly that the Trouts leap at, then catching one of them, and having a Bag of materials ready provided for that purpose, try how far Art can imitate Nature, and tho' you miss at first, yet by diligent Observation and Experience

ience you will soon arrive at perfection, and take a particular pleasure in Fly-making.

The Art of managing your Rod and throwing your Fly is no more to be learn'd by Rules than that of making it; only I would advise the young Sportsman never to incumber himself with too much Line, not longer at most than the breadth of the River he Fishes in. In raising your Line, observe to wave your Rod a little round your Head, rather than bring it directly backwards; and take care not to make a return of your Line 'till it is gone to it's full length behind you, otherwise you will be very apt to whip off your Fly. The greatest skill is to make your Line fall as light as possible on the Water, especially in smooth glideing Streams, for if it falls heavy so as to dash the Water, you will be sure to affright and not catch the Fish. When you see a Fish rise at the natural Fly, the best way is to throw a Yard above him, rather than directly over his Head, and let your Fly move gently towards him, by which means you will shew it him more naturally, and he will be the more tempted to take it; but nothing but your own practice and experience can make you a Master in the Art. so as to throw exactly behind Trees and Bushes into holes and curls of the Water where the best Fish commonly lye.

Of bottom Fishing.

The Codbait or Cadis is one of the most excellent Baits for bottom Fishing, and therefore I shall begin with it. They are to be found in gravelly and stony Brooks or Rivulets, and chiefly under Stones: When you get them you will observe that some of them will stick to the Stones, and these are the ripest

80 The Art of ANGLING

ripest and best colour'd. When you have got as many as you want, put them into a Linnen Bag, and after you have tyed them up, dip them in the Water, and keep them five or six Days dipping the Bag in Water once a Day, which will bring them fit for Use, and make them Yellow, and as tough as an Earth Worm, To distinguish the several sorts of these Cadis Worms, to observe what Fly each of 'em is turn'd to, and to know how to make use of them in both Shapes, are things that shew the Anglers nicest skill. They differ very much according to the Countries wherein they are bred, and are produced chiefly in little Rills that run into larger Rivers, and are therefore a more proper bait for those Rivers than any other. They are a very sure Bait for Trouts and Graylings.

How to Use the Codbait.

About a Week or nine Days in May Codbait fishing comes in Season, which is the first Bait to be Used in a Morning, and to be continued till the middle of the Day. This is an excellent Bait till the middle of June, and is to be used with a Hook leaded upon the shank, and the Codbait drawn on to the top of it. It will take in deep Waters as well as in Streams, by moving it up and down about nine Inches or a Foot from the bottom: This is commonly call'd sink and draw. There is another manner of Fishing with the Codbait at Midwater, but then you must put a Canon-Fly at the point of your Hook. This Bait is as good a bottom Bait as any that I know, if the Water be clear, and is to be prefer'd to the Worm at least three degrees to one, because all sorts of Pool-fish, and even the Eele are great lovers of it. This Bait I always Fish with myself in the Morning, and particularly while

while the May Fly is on; and I dare be bold to say that there is not any Fish upon his feed that will refuse it. This bait is to be made Artificially, and so near to the Natural that 'tis impossible to distinguish the one from the other in the Water.

The GRASSHOPPER

Is likewise a curious fine Bait, which comes in about the latter end of June. The young ones are produced about the middle of May, and are to be found in the Joints and Knots of most sorts of Herbs and Grass in the Fields, in a white fermented Froth, commonly call'd Cuckow's spit: Here they are nourished for some time, and then drop down into the Grass, and in about a Fortnight or three Weeks time after this they are in perfection. It is a beautiful fine Bait to Fish with, but very tender. After the Legs are taken off, it is to be drawn upon a Leaded Hook in the same manner as the Codbait; and to be moved about a Foot or nine Inches from the bottom. Your Line must be very fine for a Yard or more above the Bait, consisting of single Hairs if you have any strong enough, or else of fine Grass or Silk-worm Guts; the reason why it must be thus fine is on account of the quickness of its sinking, for the quicker it sinks the more freely the Fish take it. You may begin to Fish with this Bait about the middle of June, and continue Mornings Fishing till the middle of August if the Water be in Order, for which it ought to be very fine and low. I have myself caught with this Bait, Pike, Trout, Grayling, Perch, Botling, Roach and Dace, and am very sure that all Pool-fish are equally fond of it, for it is a very natural Food both to Pools and Rivers. The first Flight of the Grasshoppers are all dead or destroy'd by the middle of July, but

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82 THE ART OF FLYING
they leave young ones enough behind to succeed them; these continue till the Coldness of the Weather destroys them, and this last flight (as I suppose) lay their Eggs in the Grass to preserve their Species till the next Season. The next Bait I shall mention is

The Cabbage-Worm, or Cabbage-grub.

Which is an Insect produced from the Butter-fly, when the White Butter-fly comes (which is about the beginning of May, you may find them on Cabbage Leaves) there is another sort of Grub which we call the Sleeper, because he lyes quiet and conceal'd in the Hearts of Cabbages, and never appears on the outside Leaves as the speckled one does: his Back is of a dark Brown, and his Belly of a beautiful Green, finely Ribb'd. This Grub you may find from the beginning of July till the latter end of September, and is to be found no where else but in the Hearts of Cabbages: This proceeds from the Brown Butterfly, and is of a harder Nature than the other. There is a third Sort that is of a self colour'd Green, which also lyes quiet in the Hearts of Cabbages, in the same manner as the former, and is the least of the three. I have put all these sort of Grubs into a Box, and found that they were turned into three different sorts of Butterflies, the speckled Grub was the White Butterfly, the Sleeper was a dark Brown Butterfly, and the little Green one was a light Dun Butterfly with two little Circles in his Wings of a different Colour, which resembled two Eyes: These I kept in a Box till about the middle of April, when I open'd the Box, I found the three Husks, but the Flyes were crept out of 'em, and to satisfy my Curiosity, I found the Husks to be of the several Colours of the Grubs before describ'd. These are all the Palmer Worms that I know

And Compleat Fly-Fisher. 83

know of which belong to Cabbages. The Cabbage Grub is to be used about the same time with the Codbait, when it will not be improper to be prepared with both Baits, for the Fish are as fickle in their Diet as any Thing I know, for they will change their Food half a dozen Times a Day, Bottom and Top, so that sometimes they will prefer the Cabbage grub to the Codbait, especially when they are glutted with plenty of Codbait they love to change their Food, and then will be the proper Time to use the Cabbage Grub. You must Fish with a Line the length of the Rod; the bottom of it must be fine that the Bait may sink the quicker: Use a large sized Worm hook very well Leaded, for it is a large tough bait. It is to be Fish'd with in the same manner as the Codbait, about a Foot or nine Inches from the bottom, in still Waters, Curls, or Streams. It is a very beautiful tempting Bait: The first Sort continue till the latter end of June, and after that there are very few to be seen till the middle of August, when they are succeeded in great quantities by the others. These Grubs and the Grasshoppers are the best bottom Baits till the latter end of October, which may be used every Morning till 12 o'Clock if you please, and then if you are willing to change your Bait, you may use the little pale Blue Fly with success, which the Greyling are particularly fond of, for they love to take the Cabbage Grub or Grasshopper in the Forenoon, and to divert themselves with the Flyes in the Afternoon.

Of Minnow-Fishing, or trouling with
the PINK or MINNOW.

84 The Art of ANGLING

This Sport comes in about the beginning of March if the Water be fine and low, and continues till the latter end of May. It is a very eager Sport, and an excellent Bait in the clearing of the Water; it is best to be Fish'd with from about one o'Clock till Sunsetting, the reason is, because at this time the Flyes and Insects have drawn the Fish out upon their feed, and then they will run very eagerly at the Pink. At this Sport you must have a very stiff top Rod, and a strong Line about the length of the Rod, with a very large Hook, long in the Shank, and well cover'd with Lead to the bend of the Hook. The Minnow is to be drawn upon the Hook beginning at the Head, and the point of the Hook to come out a little above the Tail. This is to be used chiefly in very rapid Streams which help to give the Minnow a very brisk and natural Motion, and thereby encourage the largest Trouts to take it. In this way of Fishing it is necessary to have a Swivel or two in your Line as well to help your Minnow to Play and turn freely and easily, as to prevent your Line from twisting and breaking: You must Observe to draw your Line with a pretty swift motion up the Stream, and when you see the Fish run at it (as you frequently will) take care that you do not snatch away the Bait thro' Surprise, which is a Caution that the Experienc'd Angler is sometimes not sufficiently guarded against.

Of MAGGOT Fishing.

Before I lay down any directions for using this Bait, I shall give you the best method of Breeding them: and for this purpose you are to take a Beef's

Liver, Lights, Lungs or a Sheep's Head, but Livers are the best: after it is scored with a Knife, hang it up and cover it but not too close, for the Flies will blow it better cover'd then hanging in the open Air. In two or three Days after you perceive the Maggotts to be alive, take down the Liver and put it into a Barrel or large Earthen Pot, and there let it remain till you think the Maggotts are of full growth then take a sufficient quantity of Bran in proportion to the largeness of the Liver, and throw it into them, and in three or four Days the first brood of 'em will come out of the Liver into the Bran and there scour themselves: Then in three or four Days more take a Stick and run thro' the Liver and hang it across the Barrel or Pot, when the later Brood will soon drop out into the Bran and scour themselves for your Use. This is the best method to prevent their turning to seemingly-dead Blackish Grubs, and from thence to Flies. I have known a Fly-blow chang'd into the dead State of a Grub, from thence into a Fly, which has produced other Flies in the space of 15 Days; but this is in the hotter Months. If you are willing to preserve Maggotts all the Winter, you must get two or three Livers about the beginning of November, and if it be a favourable Season the Flies will blow them as strongly as in the hotter Weather in order to preserve their kind against the next Summer. These are to be managed in the same manner as the other, only kept somewhat warmer till they come to their full growth, and then throw in a good quantity of Bran which will keep them from Frost in the Winter. They are to be kept in a Cellar, or some dampish place, in the Barrel or Pot they were bred in: thus you may keep them till the latter end of February, and at any time if the Weather will permit, have them ready for Use. I shall in the next

place give you a particular description of Maggot Fishing, which I look upon to be the best kind of Bait that was ever invented, and of most general Use for Killing Fish in Rivers or Ponds, This Fishing comes in the beginning of May, and continues 'till after Christmas, but the best time for taking Grayling in Rivers, is from the middle of August 'till November, tho' these Fish are indeed not out of Season all the Winter, and will take no other Bait at that time so well as the Maggot. It is in general to be prefer'd ten to one above any other Bait I know or ever heard of, for all sorts of fresh Water Fish, except Salmon, Pike and Shad, will feed upon this Bait in a very plentiful manner. There is not any Sort of Fish that I know of in the Rivers Severn, Wye, and Teme, but I have taken with this Bait, except the three abovemention'd. Likewise if Gentlemen or Ladies are inclin'd to Angle in Ponds, this Bait will take Carp, Tench, Perch, Bream, Roach, Dace and Eele, &c. It is the best Bait for quickness of sport, for upon throwing in a few Handfuls of 'em by little and little about half an Hour or an Hour before you begin to Fish, you will by that Means besure to draw the Fish together, and they will pick up the Baits from the bottom, just as the Poultry will pick up their Food from the Ground, so that when you come to the place to Fish, they will be waiting in Expectation of more Food, and you may depend upon having Sport.

Tho' there are several sorts of Ground-baits and Pastes often recommended for baiting the Holes where you Fish, yet there are none of 'em comparable to Maggots; for they will draw all the Fish upon feed thirty or forty Yards up the River. It was formerly the practice to Bait the Hook with the Maggot, and to bait the Holes with other sort

of Ground-baits, which in my opinion could afford but little Sport, for neither Trout, Grayling, nor Pearch will eat Grains, stew'd Malt, Pastes, or any such dead Baits, and therefore it is necessary to bait your Holes with the same you put upon your Hook, living Baits when thrown into the Water being much more tempting than dead ones, and making the Fish much more eager. I have sometimes lost a Hook in a Crayling's Mouth, and in a Minute's time have caught the Fish again and recover'd the Hook which I found in his Mouth. To confirm this I may add, what happen'd to some Gentlemen of great distinction whom I attended a Fishing in the River near Oakly Park, who by the clearness of the Water plainly saw me draw the Graylings and other Fish about me, by throwing in by degrees a few Handfuls of Maggots, and distinctly observ'd their manner of feeding; and afterwards when they struck two Hooks away in two Fishes Mouths, they took Notice that those particular Fish never moved out of their Sight, till they Hook'd them again and caught them in a few Minutes, each of which weigh'd two Pounds: This induces me to believe that there is no Bait so tempting (for Grayling especially) as the Maggot, for I could never find by any of my Brother Anglers that there was any Bait, except the Maggot wherewith they could tempt the Fish to Bite again so soon and so often after they had once been Hook'd. I confess a Grayling is the most free biting Fish that I know, and most easily taken, and therefore when I have had great Success in taking a good Dish of Fish in a little time, I have been suspected, by some Persons of using Oils and Allurements, when in fact they were caught by Maggot-fishing only. This is a way of Fishing as easily learn'd as any I know, the greatest difficulty is to find out the most proper feeding Places for

for which Purpose observe in general that all Sorts of Fish love to lye deeper upon their Feed in clear Water & shallower in muddy Water. You may fish without a Float, but the common Method is to use one. When you fish in Rivers with this Bait you must fish with a Hook from No. 6 to No. 9 according to the foulness or clearness of the Water, your Line must be finer than for Pool-Fishing, and you must lead pretty heavy, your lower Link must be either a single Hair, or a fine Silk Worm Gut, and always observe that your Shot drags upon the Bottom, especiall in a Stream.

Of Worm Fishing.

There are great Variety of Worms, but I shall describe those only which are most useful to the Angler. The flesh-colour'd red Worm, or as he is sometimes call'd, the Dunghill red Worm is to be found commonly under old Thatch, or Thatch and Dung mix'd together, this Worm is small and knotted and of a bright red, there are some of them to be found in most Dung-hills. The Brandling is a very beautiful Worm streaked from Head to Tail in round ringlets, one streak being red and the other yellow, he is chiefly to be found in Dung-hills consisting of Hogs-Dung and Horse-Dung mix'd together, or you may sometimes find very fine large ones among the Shavings of Curriers Leather mix'd with a little Earth, but Hogs-Dung and Horses mix'd breeds the greatest in quantity. The little Gilt Tail or Tag Worm is of a pale yellow towards the Tail, is shorter than the Dung-hill red Worm, but knotted like it, he is chiefly to be found among old Horse-Dung, where you may probably find these three Sorts in the same Dung-Hill. The Peacock-red, or black headed red Worm is to be found under
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Cow-dung or Horse-dung three parts dryed in the Fields: He is to be found from the latter end of April till the beginning of August under Cow-dung chiefly, with his Head an Inch above the Ground; and I could never find any of this sort in any other places: The reason of his being called the Peacock red Worm, is because his Head is of as fine a Gloss as the Hair of a Peacock's Feather, and very near the same Colour. Some take him to have a black Head, but if they view him when he is well scour'd they will find him of a different Colour: He has a very flat broad Tail, and is a very good Worm for bottom Fishing.

The Lob-Worm or Dew-worm

Is best in Season from the beginning of May till the beginning of August, and to be Fish'd with all sorts of ways; sometimes at bottom, sometimes at mid-water, proaching with them for Eeles, bobbing with them tyed on Knots with Silk or Thread &c. Lob-Worms are of two sorts, but of the same kind; the Older are Knotted, the Younger without Knots, which for distinction sake are called the Maiden Lobs as having never bred, and are by some called Red Lobs. Of both sorts some have a broad spreading Tail, and are more Red Headed than the others; they have a streak or list along the Back, and being longer and tougher are most valued for taking large Fish.

The White Worm or Marl Worm

Is chiefly found in Marl or Clay Land, and commonly after the Plow Tail: His Head is very small and of a pale Red, and his Tail is tag'd with Yellow

the other part of his Body is near of the same Colour with the Earth he is bred in ; but when he is scour'd he is of a pale White.

The Dock Worm or Squirrel Tail

Is a fine pale Red Worm without Knots ; he is chiefly found in moist places near Dock-Roots, and is best discover'd by shaking the Earth with a Dung Fork. This is the best Earth-Worm for Carp or Tench of any Worm that I know.

The Segg Worm

Is commonly found in the hollow parts of Seggs near the Roots: He has a black Head and whitish Body, and is as tender as a young Wasp-Grub: He is about an Inch in length. This Worm is not to be found in any other place but the Roots of Seggs; it is a very good Bait for the Fish in those Pools especially where the Seggs grow.

The Cow Dung Bobb.

Is to be found from the latter end of April till the latter end of July under Cow Dungs half dried, he is of a whitish yellow with a red Head, it is a very tender Bait, and is to be used with the same Line and Hook as the Gentle or Maggot, he is to be put into some of the Earth from under the Cow Dung where he was found, and if kept moist and cool you may keep him three Weeks or a Month. The usual Manner of keeping and scouring Worms in wet Moss is so well known that I need not say any Thing of it.

And Compleat Fly-Fisher. 91
Trout Fishing with the Worm

Comes in the latter end of February and continues good till the middle of May, particularly Mornings and Evenings. The best Worms that I know for this sport are the little Red Worm, the Brandling, and the White Worm, which ought to be well clean'd. Your Hook ought to be No. 2 or 3 fix'd to a good Indian Grass or Silk-Worm-gut, and your Lead about nine Inches or a Foot from the Hook: If the Water be low, three Duck-Shots will be enough: but if high, five or six. Your Line must be a Foot or a Foot and half longer than your Rod, if it be an open Gravelly River you Fish in, but if incumber'd with Trees or Bushes, let it be a Foot or two Foot shorter. You must always be sure in an open River to let the point of your Rod go before your Body, keeping your Lead upon the Gravel, for then your Line Fishes well; and the Reason of having your Line so much longer than the Rod, is to keep your self as much out of sight as possible, especially in a clear Water; but in a muddy Water there is no necessity of having your Line any longer than the Rod. When you go to Arm your Hook for Worm-fishing, keep your Link on the inside the Hook, whipping a Bristle along with it, and this is done to prevent your Bait from slipping, otherwise it will be apt to slip down into the bend of the Hook and choak it up that it cannot catch hold on the Fish. This is the best Method of bottom Fishing with the Worm that I can direct. There is no necessity of having your Line longer than the Rod for any other sort of Bottom-fishing.

Of Palmer Worms.

There are several sorts of little Grubs or Worms of various Colours to be found in the Summer time upon the Leaves of Trees and Bushes which are called Palmer-Worms. These are best to be got by beating and shaking the Boughs of Oaks, Crab-trees, Hawthorns or other Bushes that grow over Highways or other bare and open places where you may most conveniently find them and gather them up after they are fallen. When you have found a sufficient number of 'em, in order to keep them for use, you must put them in several Boxes, every sort by themselves, and feed them with some of the fresh Leaves from the Tree they were taken from: You must feed them five or six times a Week, and be sure you take the wither'd Leaves from them as often as you give them fresh ones, and you must observe to make little holes in the Boxes to give them Air. All these sorts are very natural Food for Fish in Rivers as well as Ponds. Three of these sorts are to be made Artificially, that is, the Brown Palmer Worm, the Black Palmer Worm, and the Red Palmer Worm.

The Brown Palmer is made of Hog's Down dyed of an Amber Colour, Ribb'd with Silver Twist, and a Red Cock's Hackle over it. The Black one is made of the Black Ostridge's Feather, or the Feather out of the top-knot of a Plover, Ribb'd with Gold Twist, and cover'd with a Black Cock's Hackle. The Red one is made of Reddish Colour'd Mohair, Ribb'd with Gold Twist, and a Red Hackle over it.

These Worms are to be Fish'd with either at top or bottom: At top you must fish with it in the same manner

manner as the Artificial Fly, and at the bottom in the same manner as the Cabbage Grub or Grasshopper, made Artificially upon a Leaded Hook. The Birds, as well as Fish are great Lovers of these Insects, particularly the Green and Blue sorts, but I never observ'd any Bird take the hairy sort. I always found those Baits most proper to be Fish'd with in the same manner as Maggots or Worms, and in this way you must Angle with a pretty fine Hook about No. 4. Let your Float rest your Bait four or five Inches from the bottom either in River or Pond. This is likewise an excellent bait for Bobbing at the Bush, with a fine Bittern's Feather wrapt about the upper end of the Shank, and the Bait drawn upon the bend of the Hook, and if there are any Fish upon feed near it, they will not refuse it: This Bait when it first drops off the Boughs, often swims down the Water by reason of the Webbs it is involv'd in, which bears it up, when the Trouts that are lurking under the Boughs in expectation of the Prey, will seldom let them escape. And thus I have given you the best and shortest account I can of these Worms.

Of the Beetle.

Another Bait which I have not yet taken Notice of, and which is sometimes very useful to the Angler, is the Beetle; this is of different Colours, the one quite Black, the other of a dusky Red: Each of them having two pair of Wings one over the other; the uppermost hairy and hard, the undermost soft and transparent, and when unfolded and stretched out, are much longer than the hard Wings, and of a blueish Colour. The Reddistr are esteem'd the best, and both to be found in Horse dung or Cowdung after three or four Days dropt in the Fields,
from

from the time that Cattle go out to Grass till a Bout Michaelmas. When you come to use them, clip off their hard Wings, and hang them on your Hook with their Legs towards the Water. Your Line must be strong, and about a Yard and half, or two Yards long, and so Bobb or Dip for large Trouts or Botlings under Banks or Bushes in clear and bright Weather.

There is a sort of little Worm or Insect which I could not help taking particular Notice of last Year, which I found in prodigious Numbers upon the Ork Trees or Bushes about Michaelmas. I sometimes Observ'd fifty or sixty of 'em upon a Leaf, which were then about the length of a Barley-corn, but in about a Fortnight came to be about an Inch long. They Eat all the Leaves from off the Ork Trees, and Bushes for half a Mile up the River, and appear'd in such infinite swarms that there was scarce a Leaf to be seen upon a Tree or Bush. When they had destroy'd the Leaves they fell into the River, and I found the Trout, Grayling, and Dace had fed plentifully upon them, and were gorged with them. These Worms have black Heads, four Feet under their Throats and a black List down their Backs, with two yellow Streaks on each side from Head to Tail. I perceiv'd they could hang fast by their Tails, when the rest of their Body's were loose and disengaged. I never before took Notice of these Worms, tho' I have made my Observations upon Insects near the River, during the course of my Practtice for many Years; yet no doubt some of 'em, more or less, may be found every Year: But this was a sight new and surprising to me, as well as to many others that saw them.

I have

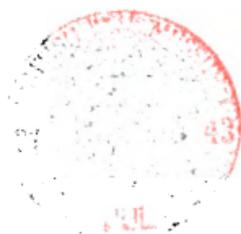
And Compleat Fly-Fisher. 95

I have now given my Reader a full Account of all the most useful Baits as well Natural as Artificial; and have laid down the best and plainest directions I can, when, and in what manner to use them so as to conduce most to his Diversion; and shall now take my leave of him in the celebrated Words of the Poet

————— *Si quid Novisti rectius istis,
Candidus imperti, Si non, his utere mecum.*

F I N I S





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