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FRONTISPIECE.



Engraved for (Bowlker's Angler.)

THE
ART OF ANGLING;
OR,
COMPLEAT FLY-FISHER:
DESCRIBING
THE DIFFERENT KINDS OF FISH,
THEIR
HAUNTS, PLACES OF FEEDING, AND RETIREMENT;
WITH AN ACCOUNT OF THE
GENERATION OF FISHES,
AND
OBSERVATIONS ON THE BREEDING OF CARP,
TOGETHER WITH
DIRECTIONS HOW TO REGULATE POOLS OR PONDS.
ALSO
THE VARIOUS KINDS OF BAITS,
AND THE GREAT DIVERSITY OF
FLIES THAT NATURE PRODUCES,
TO WHICH ARE ADDED,
DIRECTIONS FOR MAKING ARTIFICIAL FLIES.

Illustrated with many new Improvements in the
ART OF ANGLING.

By CHARLES BOWLKER, of LUDLOW.

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P R E F A C E.

THE intent of the following sheets, is as well to instruct the beginner in the rudiments of the Art of Angling, as to improve the knowledge of the proficient; for although this Art has been much improved in our age, yet it is still improveable; and I hope this free acknowledgment will beget candour in the courteous reader to encourage my zealous good-will herein.

When you read the title-page of this book, you are promised secrets that carry in them both parts of perfection; to delight and to yield profit. But lest it should be objected that it is difficult, if not impossible, for any one to teach and instruct others so much as in one branch of any art or science justly, of which he himself is not master, (and it will hold good in the Art of Angling,) my answer is ready: I have been a practitioner in this art almost thirty years; and according to my practice and experience, have contrived, considered and fitted this for publication, in such a plain and easy method as avoids needless repetition, which might make it swell to no purpose; having so digested and adopted it for use, as gives little more trouble to him who desires to be instructed in, or improved by it, than to look into any particular chapter of each respective fish, and he will find the necessary information relating to such fish under its proper head.

Having thus far premised, and as the end of Angling is amusement, I must here give some general Rules.

Patience is ever allowed to be a great virtue, and is one of the first requisites for an angler.

In your excursion to or from fishing, should you overheat yourself with walking, avoid small liquors and water as you would poison; a glass of generous wine, brandy, or rum, is more likely to promote cooling effects without danger of taking cold.

In ponds angle near the fords where cattle go to drink, and in rivers angle for Breams in the deepest and quietest parts; for Eels, under trees hanging over banks; for Chub in deep shaded holes; for Perch in scours; for Roach in winter in the deeps, at all other times where you angle for Perch; and for Trouts in quick streams.

When you have hooked a fish, never suffer him to run out with the line; but keep your rod bent, and as near perpendicular as you can; by this method the top plies to every pull he makes, and you prevent the straining of your line. For the same reason,

Never raise a large fish out of the water by taking the hair to which the hook is fastened, or indeed any part of the line into your hand; but either put a landing net under him, or for want of that your hat: You may indeed, in Fly-fishing, lay hold of your line to draw a fish to you; but this must be done with caution.

Your silk for whipping hooks and other fine work, must be very small; use it double, and wax it (and indeed every other sort of binding,) with shoe-makers wax; but if you wax it too stiff, temper it with tallow.

Incloose

P R E F A C E.

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Inclose the knots and joints of your line in a little pill of wax, pressed very close, and the superfluities pinched off; this will soon harden, and prevent the knots from drawing.

If for strong fishing you use the grass, which, when you can get it fine, is to be preferred to gut, remember to soak it always an hour in water before you use it; this will make it tough and prevent it sinking.

Whenever you begin to fish, wet the ends of the joints of your rod; which as it makes them swell, will prevent it loosening. And,

If you happen with rain or otherwise to wet your rod, so that you cannot pull the joints asunder, turn the ferrel round a few times in the flame of a candle, and they will easily separate.

Before you fix the loop of Bristle to your hook in order to make a Fly, to prevent its drawing, be sure to singe the end of it; do the same by the hair to which at any time you whip a hook.

Make Flies in warm weather only; for in cold your waxed silk will not draw.

In rainy weather, or when the season for fishing is over, repair whatever damage your tackle has sustained.

Never regard what bunglers and slovens tell you, but believe that neatness in your tackle, and a nice and curious hand in all your work, are absolutely necessary.

Never fish in any water that is not common without first obtaining leave of the owners, which is seldom denied to those who deserve it.

As dry feet are necessary to health, I have copied an excellent receipt for the angler's use, that will pre-

vent his boots or shoes letting in water. "Take a pint of linseed oil, with half a pound of mutton suet, six or eight ounces of bees wax, and a halfpenny worth of rosin; boil these in a pipkin together, and then let it cool till it be luke-warm; take a little hair brush and lay it on your boots; but it is much better to be laid on the leather, before the boots are made, and brushed with it once over when they are, as for your old boots or shoes, you must brush them with it, when they are dry."

The angler being now furnished with every requisite for the art of ground angling, his strictly adhering to the theory laid down, in his practice, is the only thing he has to do; and he may depend on his endeavours being crowned with success.

Lastly. Remember that the wit and invention of man were given for greater purposes than to ensnare silly fish; and that how delightful soever Angling may appear, it ceases to be innocent when used otherwise than as mere recreation.

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THE

T H E

ART of ANGLING, &c.

WHOEVER would become a compleat Angler, let him use all natural or artificial baits in such seasons, at such times, places and waters, as nature hath provided, and ordained them, and as reason must best inform him: To be really useful, he must have all artificial baits made to imitate nature as much as possible; and such as are pretty natural and partly artificial, compound or mixed, order and use them with the best advice, according to the practice of the greatest artists.

THE Angler should ever be careful to keep out of sight of the fish, by standing far from the bank: but muddy water renders this caution unnecessary. It is proper to angle at ground, when the filth washed down by rain from the higher grounds is carried away by floods, and the river appears of a brown, chestnut or ale colour. You may angle aground with a fly, after, or during a moderate shower.

B

FISHES

FISHES of the same kind couple not, nor perform any act of generation, with any other of a different species; as Carp with Chub, or Chub with Carp; Perch with the Ruff, or Ruff with Perch; Roach with Dace, or Dace with Roach, &c.

THE ways of their generation are various, 1st. of Salmon, Trout, Greyling, &c. by the female shedding her spawn in places convenient, and the milter's casting his sperm upon it; in which the animal spirit abideth, till sooner or later the young are brought forth: for the spirits may be bound in its seed with the cold, so that for a time it cannot exercise its operations, till the heat of the sun hath a sufficient influence upon them. 2d. Of some fish by gliding their bellies one against the other, with that celerity that human eyes can scarce perceive it. 3d. Fresh water fish generally breed but once a year, yet the waters would be over charged with infinite swarms of increase, as their fecundity is so wonderful, that a single fish is capable of producing eight or ten millions in a season, had not nature wisely decreed that they should not only devour a great part of their own spawn, but, most of them the spawn of one another; and this mighty increase may well be perceived by the myriads of eggs in one female fish. The same enmities that subsist among land animals prevail with equal fury in the waters, and with this aggravation, that by land the rapacious kind seldom devour each other; but, in rivers and the ocean, it seems an universal

verfal warfare, fifh againft fifh ; the large devour the fmall, even of their own fpecies ; and thofe that efcape, in their turn, become the tyrants of fuch as are yet fmall than themfelves.

SOME of the other chief deftructive, and reductive, by which the numbers of thofe natale animals are leffened, are thefe which follow: 1ft. By the milters' abfence, when the female fheds her fpawn, fo that for want of performing his natural office it proves fruitlefs and nothing comes thereof. 2d. By the waters being often tainted in divers ways ; fuch as lime being thrown in, or through exceffive heat and drought. 3d. By many lakes, pools, rivers, &c. being evaporated and dried up by the heat of the fun. 4th. By their wandering into the fea. 5th. By being frozen to death by long continued frofts. 6th. By being devoured by amphibious creatures, as frogs, toads, &c. and by beafts, fowls, and fifhes of prey.

THE generous angler, that values his health, begins not his noble recreation of angling till March ; but in fome years February affords the judicious angler more diverfion than March, after the dead cold hungry weather.

AS necessary to this little TREATISE, here follow the Names of the principal RIVERS in ENGLAND :

<i>Thames</i>	<i>Dove</i>	<i>Nyd</i>	<i>Tine</i>
<i>Severn</i>	<i>Dun</i>	<i>Ouse</i>	<i>Test</i>
<i>Trent</i>	<i>Dart</i>	<i>Orweil</i>	<i>Teme</i>
<i>Humber</i>	<i>Eden</i>	<i>Onny</i>	<i>Thryn</i>
<i>Medway</i>	<i>Eamont</i>	<i>Parret</i>	<i>Tees</i>
<i>Tweed</i>	<i>Evenlode</i>	<i>Plim</i>	<i>Ver</i>
<i>Wye</i>	<i>Ex</i>	<i>Petterel</i>	<i>Ufk</i>
<i>Avon</i>	<i>Frome</i>	<i>Rother</i>	<i>Ware</i>
<i>Are</i>	<i>Isis</i>	<i>Reck</i>	<i>Wever</i>
<i>Arun</i>	<i>Itchen</i>	<i>Rhea</i>	<i>Weland</i>
<i>Blithe</i>	<i>Iddle</i>	<i>Roden</i>	<i>Wensbeck</i>
<i>Bréton</i>	<i>Kennet</i>	<i>Ribble</i>	<i>Wey</i>
<i>Calder</i>	<i>Lea</i>	<i>Rumney</i>	<i>Waveney</i>
<i>Cherwell</i>	<i>Line</i>	<i>Stroud</i>	<i>Whittam</i>
<i>Churner</i>	<i>Lavant</i>	<i>Swift</i>	<i>Windrush</i>
<i>Chelmer</i>	<i>Lon</i>	<i>Stour</i>	<i>Wash</i>
<i>Coln</i>	<i>Lowther</i>	<i>Stow</i>	<i>Willey</i>
<i>Clun</i>	<i>Lug</i>	<i>Sherburn</i>	<i>Warf</i>
<i>Crouch</i>	<i>Mersey</i>	<i>Swall</i>	<i>Youre</i>
<i>Dee</i>	<i>Monnow</i>	<i>Saltwarp</i>	<i>Yare</i>
<i>Derwent</i>	<i>Nen</i>	<i>Tame</i>	
<i>Deben</i>	<i>Nadden</i>	<i>Tamer</i>	

THAMES, the chief river of the island, is composed of two rivers, Tame and Isis; the former rising in Buckinghamshire, the other about

about two miles west of Cirencester, in Gloucestershire; and uniting their streams with their names near Dorchester, in Oxfordshire, make a fine beautiful river, and from thence is called 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 country; 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 called 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 turbulent river UMBER; the most violent current of all the island.

UMBER is not properly a distinct river, 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, a Kentish river, remarkable for its extent and safety in harbouring the royal navy of Great Britain.

TWEED is a river of the north-east boundary of England, dividing it from Scotland; on whose bank stands the strong and memorable town of Berwick.

WYE, 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 British Channel. There is another river of the same name in Dorsetshire, (though differently spelt) at the mouth of which stands the town of Weymouth; so called from its situation: it is not unusual to have several rivers, called 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 called in different parts of England.

THERE may possibly be some rivers omitted in the catalogue, as considerable as many of those set down: there are also innumerable brooks and rivulets (too many to be particularly taken notice of here), that afford the sportsman as much diversion as some of the larger rivers; by this means England enjoys the advantage of being better watered than most parts of the world; which greatly adds to the fertility of the soil, and beauty of the country; and the great plenty and variety of fish produced therein, adds considerably to the delight and convenience of the inhabitants.

I WILL

I WILL now proceed to give an account of our Fresh-water fish :

SALMON.

THE Salmon is accounted the king of fresh-water fish, and always breeds in rivers that have an immediate communication with the sea ; but so high or distant from it, as not to admit of any salt or brackish tincture ; yet they spend much of their time in the salt water, making the sea, generally, their winter quarters, perhaps for warmth as much as for any thing else. It is the largest of fresh-water fish, and therefore as well as for the super-excellency of his nature, is called the king of fresh-water fish ; is a fish of prey, and has teeth in his mouth as other fish of prey have ; and when in season he is adorned with a row of small round black spots along the middle of each side, from head to tail. Salmon are of several sorts and different appellations ; but for a nice taste, Thames Salmon are reckoned to exceed those of any other river. The Severn Salmon are excellent in their kind, and are first in season of any river in England.

Their Haunts and Spawning Times.

SALMON frequent large rivers most ; such as empty themselves into the sea, not only at the entrance of those rivers where they lose themselves in the sea, but many miles up them, where the current is most swift and violent, and whose bottoms

bottoms are most stony, rocky, pebly, gravelly, and weedy, and come into them in February, March, April, and May, sometimes sooner, and sometimes later in the year, where they fatten; the sea adding greatly to their growth and goodness. They are ever restless, coveting to get near the spring head, and frequently wander into lesser rivers that fall into the larger, especially in spawning time, i. e. in September and October, where, in shallow places of those smaller rivers, the female hath cast her spawn, and the milt done his natural office, by shedding his milk upon it, they cover all with gravel and sand.

WHEN Salmon have spawned, they grow out of season, weak and flaggy, break out in filthy scabs all over their bodies, loathsome to the sight, and very unwholesome to feed on. In this condition, after spawning, they return to sea before Christmas following, if they are not taken or stopped by floodgates, weirs and mills, and so confined to the fresh water; in which case they become lean, consume and die within a year or two.

THE principal occasion of their dying is this; the Salmon being a fish by nature tender, and very chill, cannot, in the winter season, endure the extreme frigidity of the fresh river water, by reason of its tenuity, especially being so lately weakened by spawning; and therefore, by natural instinct, they make the sea their winter habitation; the sea-water being naturally warm. Eels being a like tender fish by nature, and most
sensible

fenfible of cold, lay themselves up in mud all the winter, for warmth, as not being then able to endure the sharp coldness of the fresh water, and perhaps by the like instinct hasten to the sea too, which they do as soon as there comes a flood to carry them off.

THE Salmon spawn, so buried as aforesaid, in a short time becomes a fry of little fishes, which appear in March and April following, and many of them are taken in the same rivers where they were spawned, about four or five inches long, and are then called Sewins, Samlets, or Salmon-smelts, &c. and about that time of the year they go to the sea in shoals the first flood that comes to carry them away. In July and August after they come back to the same rivers, by which time they become a foot or fourteen inches long, and are then called by other names, according to the proprieties of speech of the different places where they are ; as Salmon-peals, Salmon-trouts, or Salmon-morts. About the beginning of December they go to sea again, and return not into the fresh rivers till April or May next, by which time they become two feet or twenty inches long. Then in December after, these return to sea again, and come into the fresh rivers compleat Salmon, in February, March, April, and May following, to cool, delight, and refresh themselves in the fresh waters, loosen their bellies, and prepare them for spawning ; being then about two years and six months old, but how long Salmon will live is uncertain.

Now

Now Salmon being found in our fresh rivers in the several preceding gradations, and descriptions gradual, hath caused some to think they are several sorts of fish, but I conceive them to be all one and the same species, not coming to be compleat Salmon under two years and a half's growth; and the ground of my conception is, I could never find any spawn in any of the lesser sizes, before they come to be Salmon, which they most certainly would have, if of a different kind.

AND although some affirm, that those small Salmon called Schedders, are bred of the spawn of the sick Salmon that cannot get out of fresh rivers to sea, and for that cause never grow bigger than they are when so called, yet I take it to be an error, because those Salmon spawn when in perfect health only, before the time of their going to sea, and spawn no more after whilst they live, unless they return first to sea, and are purged and cleansed by the salt water after spawning; but are taken or pine away and die in their imprisonment, either by excessive cold, or for want of such purgation, or both; and the purging of the salt water may as well be a reason why Salmon grow so fast, as the want thereof, the cause why they pine away and die so soon when imprisoned in fresh waters. Salmon being fish of prey, and great feeders, nature directs them to the salt waters as physic, to purge and cleanse them, not only from their impurities after spawning, but from all their muddy terrene particles and gross humours, acquired

quired by their extraordinary and excessive feeding all the summer in fresh rivers, and to harden their fat and flesh, which makes them not only grow the faster, but also become the more wholesome food, savory and grateful to mankind; for the sea admitting no mud, slime, or filth, work out gross superfluities, by its cleansing, digesting, attenuating, consuming, astringent, and drying qualities, for in it dryness is predominant, as in fresh water, moisture is; but how fish that naturally breed and live in the salt water become fresh fish, for ought I know, can be no more found out, than the cause of the ebbing and flowing of the sea.

YET for all such purgations we find that at the first coming back of Salmon; from the sea, into fresh rivers, they are not then in right season; nor, by the more subtle quality and tenuity of the fresh water, are they also cleared of the grosser particles of the salt water, yet thereby they become more rarified, pure and wholesome for food, according to their super-excellent nature, participating both of the fresh and salt water, which other fish do not in like manner, for which reason I suppose the Salmon is preferred before all fishes.

THOUGH the sea water preserves Salmon alive, and makes them grow faster, by its heating, healing, purging, and cleansing quality, yet, being bred in fresh rivers, and assimilated and indentified to them, and of the same temperament with them, why should it be thought unreasonable that the fresh water should afford
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more kindly nourishment, and more variety of food, fuitable to their nature, than the salt water, both to make them fatter, bring them into right feason, and adapt them for generation and spawning; especially when it is considered that they dwell in the fresh waters three quarters of the year, and in some deep brackish rivers, that have an immediate communication with the sea, abide therein all the year long, unless the extremity of a cold winter season drives them into the salt sea? and, when they are fatted and glutted with their long excessive feeding in fresh rivers, and have spawned, repair to the sea for warmth; and to be purged from their gross humours by the calidity of the saline waters: and when winter is over return to their summer habitations. For if this were not so, they would grow fatter in the salt water than in the fresh; spawn there, and be as fit to take at their return into the fresh rivers as after, which they are not.

THAT Salmon are naturally fresh-water fish, appears, not only by their being spawned in fresh rivers, and their long continuance in them, but also having wind-bladders or swimmers, as other fresh-water fish have, to bear up their bodies floating, poise and keep them equiponderant in the water, for, without such airy vessels, by reason of the tenuity of the fresh water, they would sink to the bottom, and lie grovelling, as by breaking the bladder has been experimentally found: by the contraction and dilation of this bladder they are able to raise or sink

sink themselves at pleasure, and continue at what depth of water they list; but sea-fish have no such vessels, because their bodies are naturally borne up by the thicker, grosser body of the sea-water: this is the most perfect account of the names, nature, season, and spawning time of this royal fish.

THE little Gravel Last-springs, or Samlets, which are often taken to be Salmon-fry, are a species of themselves; the rivers Severn and Wye abound with them in great plenty: they spawn about the latter end of August, or beginning of September: it is a very nice fish to eat, and affords the angler much sport.

The best Baits, Times and Seasons to angle for Salmon.

SALMON take little fish best at their first coming into the fresh rivers: i. e. in February and March all the day long: and likewise flies and worms till the latter end of September: They are to be taken with almost any of the Trout 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 set, in a clear water, when the wind blows moderately against the stream: the two best months in the year to angle for them are March and September, particularly with a fly; or you might troll for them after the same manner you do for a Pike; when struck he begins to plunge
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and leap, for which reason, when you angle for him any way, use a reel with about forty or fifty yards of line to run off, otherwise he will break your tackle or his hold ; for the length of line kills the fish, and affords the angler excellent diversion.

I think it not amiss here to add a secret mode to catch fish, though it is never used by the fair angler.

The Poacher's grand Secret.

TAKE nettles and cinque-foil, chop them small ; then mix some juice of house-leek with them ; rub your hands therewith, then throw it into the water, and keep your hands in it ; the fish will come to them. Or take heart-wort, and lime, mingle them together, and throw them into a standing water, which will fox them ; and then they are easily taken. But the best method is to take *coccus indicus*, which is a poisonous narcotic, called also *baccæ piscatoriæ*, fisher's berries, and pound them in a mortar, then make balls of the paste which will be produced, about the size of a pea, and throw them into the standing water ; the fish that taste of it will be very soon intoxicated, and will rise, and lie on the surface of the water ; put your landing net under them directly and take them out ; for they will soon recover.—It is but necessary to know these secrets, as I am sure no true lover of angling will ever make use of them, only by being acquainted with them, it will enable him to detect poachers.

Of

*Of the TROUT.**His Nature, Season, and Growth.*

THE Trout is a fish highly valued both in this and foreign nations; he is a fish of various appellations, according to the idiom of several countries, but whether all be one and the same species, is to some doubtful, but I conceive divers of them are of several kinds; and some Trouts take their denominations from whence they are bred or found, and are appropriated to them, as Rea-Trouts, Corve-Trouts, Usk-Trouts, &c. for their excellency, arriving, I suppose, to an estimation more than common from the goodness or kindliness of the water and soil of those places; but Trouts generally differ in the colour of their flesh, (as well as their outward form and complexion) according to the water and soil where they are bred: the flesh of some is white, some red, and some yellowish; the two last being accounted the best; and all three sorts sometimes found in one and the same river, and in places but a small distance from one another.

In some rivers Trouts grow to a large size and strange proportion. In the river Kennet, near Newbury, and Hungerford, in Berkshire, I am informed, are great plenty of excellent large Trouts; some say the best in England; but I have heard it affirmed that the river Stour, near Canterbury, in Kent, breeds as good Trouts as any in the south-east of England. The Trouts in some rivers in Derbyshire, the

Ulk and Wye, in Monmouthshire, are thought not to be inferior to the best in any of our rivers ; but for a whole county Hampshire bears the bell, for its many, great and small, swift, shallow, clear, lovely, and pleasant rivers and brooks, abounding with admirable Trouts.

TROUTS principally affect to lie near to, and are found towards the sources or spring-heads of rivers, and are better or worse, larger or smaller, as the nature of the soils are on which the water runs ; in pure, clear, cristalline and transparent rivers and brooks, whose waters run on rocks, stones, pebbles, or great gravel and sands, but especially the latter are experimentally found to be the most delicate and best Trouts. The Trout in his prime is a princely fish ; he hath his teeth in his mouth as most fish of prey have ; is of courage bold, of great agility, quickness of sight, and very wary too: for if he chance to espy you, he will render your present design against him fruitless, and learn you greater caution against the next visit to keep out of his sight. His outward form is comely, his complexion various, a fish of divers colours, bespangled with delicate spots of dark and red ; and to eat, hath a delightful taste, according to the judgment of the nicest palates.

THE Trout is best in season about the middle of June, tho' they may be taken from the middle of March till Michaelmas ; and are known to be best in season when small headed and hog-backed, which for the most part, is
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in June, and then is equal in goodness to any fish that lives altogether in fresh water : but in some rivers they come sooner into season ; and in others go not so soon out : when at their full growth they decay, dwindle away, and die in a short time, as of a consumption.

Their Spawning Time and Haunts.

TROUTS, a little before they spawn, make up the river, and to admiration, will get thro' mills, weirs, and flood-gates, and up such high and swift places as is almost incredible, and spawn in October and November ; but in some rivers a little sooner or later, as Salmon do, contrary to the natural course of most fish, which spawn in warmer weather, when the sun hath rarified the water, and adapted it for their work of generation.

AFTER the Trout have spawned, they waste, grow big-headed, sick, lean, become insipid, lousy, and unwholesome, till spring comes to restore them to their pristine health ; except some of the females that are barren and continue good all winter ; and such are to be found in divers rivers, and in this respect are compared to the barren doe, that comes in season in November, and goes out in February.

IN February, when warmer weather comes in, Trouts leave their winter quarters in the deeps, to scour, cleanse, and recreate themselves in shallower, gravelly streams, and prepare themselves for their summer delights ; and as they gather strength advance higher and higher up

the river, till they become settled in their summer habitations ; many of them getting up as high as they can towards the spring-heads of rivers, &c. as in the preceding section.

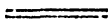
IN their travels, they settle for the most part in whirl-pools and holes, into which swift streams, sharps and shallows fall, and being strong, feed in the largest and swiftest currents, especially in the sides and deepest parts of them, near to their holds ; if they be large fish they commonly lie under 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 jet forth into the water, on which the streams press very hard, causing an eddy, or a kind of whirling back of the water ; and they delight themselves in all such places as are shaded with any bush, or covered over with foam, bank or other thing, constantly waiting and watching there for the stream to bring something down to feed upon, or small fish, which they often devour.

IN the beginning of the year, when Trouts begin to gather strength, they advance up the river and are very restless, getting over mill-heads and dams ; and when settled, are to be found by the sides of swift streams, and at locks, flood-gates, and weirs, &c. for the angler, by experience, finds out their haunts and different ways to angle for them.

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The best Months for angling for Trout,

ARE March, April, May, and June: you might begin in February if the weather be open and mild; but the chiefest months are those before-mentioned: in March, if the weather be clear, the sun bright, and a clear water, angle for them with a minnow or worm only, mornings and evenings, by the sides of the most swift and rapid streams; but if cloudy weather, which is always best for angling, and the water in order, what I mean is, low and fit for fly-fishing, use the march-blue and brown, which you will see come regularly on about twelve o'clock, and continue till three; but as the season advances, and the weather gets warmer, in April the flies come on an hour sooner; but the principal time to fly-fish is from twelve till two, the flies then come on in great quantities.

*Of the GREYLING, or HUMBER.**His Names, Nature, Growth, and Season.*

THE Greyling and Humber are one and the same fish, only different countries give him different names: he is much of the nature of a Trout, both as to his food and flesh; calvers like a Trout, and eats as firm as a Trout, but differs from him in taste. When first taken out of the water he smells like violets; and might properly be called the flower of fishes.

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THE Greyling also differs from the Trout in his growth, being seldom taken above twenty-four inches in length ; of a different complexion of flesh as well as in outward form ; for he is hog-back'd, his fins standing upon his back like those of a Perch, and his mouth and belly touch the ground together ; has his teeth in his mouth round the upper jaw as fine as a file. When in season, which is from September till Christmas, he is outwardly black about the head, gills, and along the back ; his belly is of a dark grey dappled colour, with beautiful black spots ; he is of a delicate shape ; he is good and palatable all the year ; but his principal season are the months before-mentioned.

His Spawning Time.

HE spawns about the latter end of March and beginning of April ; at which time he lies in sharp streams and brews, and is to be taken with an artificial fly ; but you seldom take a spawner ; the milter at that time will take a worm freely.

His Haunts.

HIS Haunts are the same as those of a Trout ; and he is usually taken with the same baits and after the same manner ; he will take a fly, worm, or maggot, but the last most freely : He is very game some at the fly, being much simpler, and therefore bolder than a Trout : he will rise two or three times at a fly, if you miss taking him : he lurks close all the winter, but about the
middle

middle of April he appears brisk and frolicksome, swimming in the middle of the water, making that his politic region, the better to intercept any thing that passes along the river for his nourishment.

How to take a Greyling.

His principal baits, that are naturally the produce of the water, are cod-bait, stick-bait, stone-bait, and great variety of smaller insects that gather husks, which are composed of gravel and sand, to preserve them from the coldness of the water; these insects produce flies, which the Greyling feed upon both at bottom and top of the water; he is to be taken with a cabbage grub, grass-hopper, or cod-bait, either natural or artificial: this method of fishing is to sink and draw, as the hook is leaded upon the flank, either for the natural or artificial, and might be used in standing waters as well as bubbles, curls, or streams, being a very killing way, and will take almost every sort of fish: They are to be taken with a fly all the fishing season; but the best months are September, October, and November, if the water be in order for fly-fishing; they are then in high season, and take a fly very freely: but the most certain way to take them at all seasons, is, with gentles or maggots, let the water be muddy or clear: in this method of fishing, your tackle must be made suitable to the condition of the water you fish in, and use a cork or quill float, instead of a running line, letting your shot drag on the ground.

ground, throwing in a few maggots now and then for them to feed on; this by experience I know to be the best of all bottom baits for river or pool fishing; as all kinds of fish take them very freely, except salmon or pike.

*Of the P I K E.

His Names, Nature, Size, and Age.

THE Pike might be properly called the most voracious animal of the fresh-water element, whose devouring nature has also acquired these other suitable appellations, as fresh-water tyrant, river-wolf, &c. And indeed he lords it over every species of his aquatical region; not sparing his own kind. A Pike a foot long has been taken forth of another Pike's gorge; and it is well known, a Pike an ell long will take one half his own length and swallow him by degrees as it digests; yea, such is his ingluvius nature, that whilst his mouth is thus stopped up he will offer at another prey; and the better to suit his rapacious quality, his mouth is by nature advantageously formed, opening and shutting like the mouth of a wolf or dog; : his lower jaw is much longer than his upper, and in shape more resembling the bill of a goose, and hath in his mouth divers sets or rows of venomous teeth, before, on both sides, above and below, and so long, sharp, and large, that therewith he can both snap at, and hold fast

fast any thing that he encounters ; but for all this, the Pike is a brave fish, very firm, palatable and wholesome to eat, and affords the angler great variety of sport.

THE shape and figure of the Pike's body is very long, his back broad, almost square when in his best state, and throughout equal in breadth to his lowest fins : his head lean and very bony ; his eyes of a golden colour and very quick sighted ; his belly always white, but his back and sides dark and speckled with yellow, if fat ; but the sides of a lean fish are of a greenish cast, his ventricle is large and capacious, his throat short : one spawned in a clear, kindly water, where there is good store of feed, will grow to be eighteen inches long in a year, during which time, the first year of his age, he is called a Shottrel, the second year a Pickrel, the third a Pike, the fourth a Luce ; some are of opinion that this fish lives not above fifty years, others will affirm that he will live to an hundred years ; but at what age a Pike has done growing, is as difficult to prove, as that he lives so long. Though the state of every thing that has life be divided into the time of its growth, its consistence, and its decay, and cannot be long permanent in that state ; i. e. all things grow up, increase, decrease, and perish.

THE mighty Luce makes the best present, as the more honourable dish at a noble entertainment ; yet a male fish of the size when he becomes a Pike, (at which time he is about three quarters of a yard long) more delights the eater,
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the flesh not being then so coarse, but much more delicious than the overgrown Pike or Luce.

His Haunts, spawning Time, and Season.

THE Pike is a solitary fish, swims by himself and lives alone : delights most in sandy, clay, or gravelly bottoms, and in deep still pools near to the sides of rivers ; and those that are bred in such waters, grow fatter and faster, and eat better than those bred in pools. River Pike delight most in the deepest, largest, and quietest parts of the river, the better to surprize their prey : they lurk among reeds, bull-rushes, and water docks, under boughs of trees, and behind bushes, roots, and stumps of trees, or other things that jet forth into the water ; therefore you must fish for them in the haunts before described ; and close to the bank side, large angles and holes that are weedy, short, deep, and still, and near to some ford, shallow, or scour, in which generally the young fry abound, are most commodious for Pike fishing, because in such, Pikes are most easily and certainly found : and when you see any stand or place at any water-side, in which Pikes are, that are much beaten, or trodden bare by anglers for other fish, those may be accounted principal haunts of Pikes ; for by beating the ground in such places to catch other fish, Pikes are much brought thither to prey upon the small fry that will be sure to resort to those places, more than to any other : in such places, the angler must expect

expect to have extraordinary sport with his troll, &c.

Now, because Pike alter and change their habitations with the seasons of the year and weather, I will here briefly, and more particularly, acquaint you with the various times and places of their resort and abode, especially in rivers.

ALL the winter months they lie in the deepest and most obscure places, very near the ground; and in the latter end of February and beginning of March betake themselves to the scours and other convenient places, where they then leave their spawn, and spawn no more that year: In April and May they advance higher among the shallows, which abound with shoals of wanton fry, and near thereunto take up their summer apartments, frequently fallying forth amongst the small fish, seeking a more plentiful food, air, and exercise, after a solitary, hungry, winter life; and, when they have there glutted themselves with their summer delights, in September they begin to retreat towards their winter quarters, if not prevented by floods, or other things that might stop their so passing: and this is their monthly and annual course of life, according to heat and cold; but they are best in season in September and October.

His Baits.

THE best bait to troll, or catch Pike with, are small trouts, samlets, gudgeons, roach, dace, lob-worms, and young frogs; and they

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are frequently taken with flies made for that purpose.

The best Times and Seasons to troll for Pike.

FORASMUCH as spawning time, in February and March, is the season wherein all thoughts of fishing for Pike ought to be laid aside, not only for the preservation of the species, but because they are then out of season and worth but little; for which reason I would advise the angler to forbear the laborious, yet pleasant exercise of trolling, till April, which will make him amends for his friendly forbearance, and sufficiently recompence his generous cessation; not only in the salubrity of the air, but the fruition of a pleasant spring, after a cold, dull, and phlegmatic winter; in hearing the airy choir warble out their charming notes, and melodious accents in woods and groves, with variety of other delights: and now the bait, which in spawning time was nauseous to the Pike, is become very desirable, and will not be forsaken by him; and though they are not yet arrived to their summer's fatness and firmness, they are now become greedy of their prey, afford good sport, and will make a good dish.

BUT I account September and October, the prime months for trolling; not only in respect of the then goodness of the fish, (having had all the summer's feed) the temperature of the air, and falling down of the weeds; but also for the lowness of the water, whereby the fish are much easier found in their harbours.

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If you would know more particularly what times of the day are best all the year long, for this recreation, take them as followeth; in April, May, June, July, and August, Pike bite best early in the morning, and late in the evening: but in a hot sun-shiny day, fish rise up towards the surface of the water, for coolness and air; at which time a snare is more likely to prove effectual, than the most tempting bait; besides, extremity of heat depraves the appetite, and begets a loathing of food, as well in the watry inhabitants, as those that dwell on the earth: but in September and October they bite well all day long, but best about three o'clock; and whenever you troll, let it be in clear water, and the more windy the better, if you can endure it.

How to troll for a Pike.

Now, being fitted with a good trolling rod, and every material for that purpose, when you come to the river, meer, or pool, you intend to fish in, try the bank side on each hand of you; after that cast your bait as far as the place will allow, directly forwards; afterward, all about where you can, fishing close, but not twice in a place; always suffering your bait to sink some depth before you pull it up again; but where the water is very foul and weedy, you must drop your bait in here and there, in holes, amongst weeds, under trees and bushes, and in all other likely places where Pike frequently haunt; and because I find it too tedious to wind

up my line after every thrōw, upon my tumbrel, I always gather it up round the four fingers of my left hand, to hang upon my hand in skains or hanks, of about eight or ten inches long, as I draw it towards me.

WHEN you cast your bait any considerable distance from you, let it sink about mid-water, then draw it gently towards you, not snatch it hastily out of the water, lest you prevent the Pike's taking the bait: or if he should have hold of it, check him; then sink it very softly again, and draw it as before; and after this manner do, till a fish has taken it, or you have brought it home to you for another throw; and when you only think you have a bite, draw your line straight, but very leisurely, and feel it: if he be a fish, your gentle moving of the bait will make him but the more eager; and perhaps to move it, and gorge it the sooner; or at least, not to forsake it, as he sometimes will, if you stir it but a little, to make him think your bait strives to get from him.

WHEN you have no bite, and brought your bait home, and almost to the top of the water, take it not out hastily; for many times a Pike will hold on the bait just as it is leaving the water, for fear it should quite escape him. I have sometimes had them leap out of the water after the bait; though I have play'd it near the bank side a pretty while before I took it up. Perhaps the cause of his leaping thus out of the water after the bait, might be owing to his not seeing it sooner, or coming too late to the place; for they

they commonly rise, or shoot at a bait, if near enough, at the first or second sight, if at all, that time.

WHEN you have a bite, and have given it a convenient time, i. e. half a quarter of an hour, or till you see your line move in the water, whereby you may pretty safely conclude he has paunched the bait, and rangeth about for another prey; draw a straight line, and hook him with a small jerk, and then make your pastime as you can. If you find him a large one, give him scope enough, if the place be not very foul, till you find him better pacified, by letting him go with a stiff line, and drawing him in again; but hold him not to it, lest he break hold, or tear out his own stomach, (which is but tender) rather than become your captive: when you have brought him to the bank side, either take him up with a landing hook, or net, or for want of them, clap your finger and thumb into his eyes: which is the surest and safest hold with the hand.

SOMETIMES a Pike will take your bait, and presently leave it; and after he has left it will come again and carry it to his hold, and play with it, and at last leave it: and at another time, a Pike that takes your bait most greedily at first, and carries it farthest, will, notwithstanding, forsake it; therefore if you meet with such fish, make use of the snap; always observing not to use a large bait with a small hook, nor a small bait with a large hook; but let your baits be in proportion to your hook.

To take them with live Leiger Baits.

THE most certain, sure, and tempting way to take Pike, at leiger, is with live baits; which is a bait fixed to a certain place, and to keep your baits alive the longer, whether it be a fish or frog, observe this method; if it be a fish, as roach, dace, samlets, small trout, or gudgeon, which are all good baits; then make an incision upon the side of the fish, from the vent near to the head; then with a probe open the passage between the skin and the body, for the more easy entrance of the wire; now having wound your line on your fork, and placed it in the slit, set off the bait alive, where you would have it rest, that the bait may hang about mid-water: your line for this purpose should be about ten or twelve yards long, that when the Pike comes he may the more easy run off to his hold in order to pouch the bait.

To take them by snaring or haltering.

THE chief months of the year are May, June, and July, in hot sun-shiny days, and in the hottest time of the day, when most glowy, they then appearing towards the top of the water; but you must go warily to work, and not appear too openly, or with much motion; when you have spied a Pike, fix your eye stedfastly upon him, without looking off him, which will make him lie the stiller; for unless he is well fettled in his station, a small disturbance will sometimes move him, and make him fly from you; therefore when you look for him, have your
your

your snare with you ready fixt : after this manner, take a strait, tough, taper pole, also stiff and strong enough, but not too heavy, of about four yards long, fasten to the smaller end a piece of hard twisted whipcord, of about a yard in length, more or less, according to the depth of water ; and the other end of the whipcord fastened to a well nailed brass wire, made into a noose or snare, like a hair gin ; or let it be all of well-nealed wire, and no cord : having opened the noose wide enough to slip over his head without touching him, let it down with your pole into the water, even with the Pike, two or three yards before him, and guide it very gently towards his head, fixing your eye still on the fish, till you have put the snare over his head and gill fins, but no further ; then immediately with a strong jerk, upright, hoist him amain to land : the keeping your eye as much as you can on the Pike will cause him to look on you the more, and mind the gin the less : take care that your pole be not brittle or rotten.

Thus you may also halter other fishes if you go circumspectly to work ; as trouts, both at mid-water and bottom, if you can find them lie conveniently for your purpose : and at bottom eels.

Of the PERCH.

THE Perch is a fish of dark and changeable colour, he is hog-backed ; a fish of prey ; hath teeth in his mouth ; is bold and adventurous,

turous, and so ravenous that he spares none he can encounter ; yea, often seizes his own kind ; but, at times, are so sociable, that they swim in bodies together ; he is armed with a coat of mail, and sharp weapons, offensive and defensive ; having no less than a double guard of pikes to secure him against his enemies ; and though a very slow grower, yet is long-lived, will arrive to a considerable magnitude, having been taken twenty-seven inches long, and deep withal : his flesh is very grateful to the stomach, is wholesome and nutritive, especially the river Perch.

His Haunts.

THE Perch loves a sandy, clayey soil, deep water, in holes by the sides of, or nigh unto, little streams, into which small gliding, gentle currents fall ; under hollow banks, in creeks or large ditches, joining to large rivers ; as also in ponds that are fed by some river, rivulet, or spring.

His spawning, biting Times, and Baits.

THE Perch spawn about the latter end of February, or beginning of March, and no more that year. The best months to angle for them are, April, May, and June ; though they will bite pretty well till October ; in cloudy, windy weather, will bite all day long, but best in mornings and evenings. They generally swim in shoals : when in humour for biting, you may take a great many at one fishing. The best baits
for

for Perch are minnows, red worms, maggots, or wasp-grubs. When you fish for him with a minnow, let it be a live one ; stick the hook in his back fin, letting him swim in mid-water, still keeping him about that depth, with a cork float, which should not be very small : let your line be leaded within a foot of your hook, to prevent the bait coming to the top of the water, which he will when tired : when you have a bite give him time enough to pouch the bait. When you angle for them with worms, bait the river, pool, or pond you intend to fish, with stewed malt, fresh grains, and log-worms, cut in pieces, for three or four times before you angle for them ; by which means it draws the fish together, and they feed on it undisturbed ; for which reason, when you fish for them you might depend of having success : when you fish for them with maggots or wasp-grubs, which are the best of all ground baits, bait the place you intend to fish in, as mentioned before, with maggots, or wasp-grubs, only the sort you intend to fish with ; if with a maggot, your hook should be No. 7 ; your line strong and fine, throwing in a few maggots now and then to keep the fish together. If you fish with a wasp-grub, use the same method as with a maggot, only this difference, your hook should be No. 5, or 6. There are many more baits that will take Perch, but the last-mentioned are the best. Sometimes they are to be taken with a fly under water.

of

Of the T E N C H.

His Nature and Virtue.

THE Tench is a leather-mouthed fish; his colour being as it were, tinged or died of a greenish hue; his scales very small, fine, and smooth; his fins large, red circles about his eyes, and little barbs at the corners of his mouth, slimy like an eel, and something like eels in taste. They are of very good nourishment, especially such as are bred in pools or ponds, that are not very muddy: he has a natural balsam on his skin, and so medicinal to other fish, that he is styled physician to all his co-inhabitants in his watery region: and for his balsamic virtue, is so great a favourite to the Pike, that he would sooner prey upon his own kind, than upon that species, but when hungry will not spare him.

His Haunts.

THE Tench is observed to delight more in ponds or pits, than rivers; and loves to feed in deep still waters, covered with weeds or batter-docks; he thrives best in muddy soil, and frequents only the most deep and quiet places in rivers.

Their

Their spawning Time and Season.

TENCH generally spawn about the latter end of June, or beginning of July : in some ponds they breed much, but thrive little ; and in others grow large, but breed little. They are best in season from the latter end of September till the middle of May.

Their biting Time and Baits.

TENCH bite best in April and May, in warm, cloudy or misting weather, particularly if there is a fine breeze of wind from south, or west, as they bite more freely at bottom, than in calm, hot sun-shiny weather : the reason why they bite the better is, because the wind cooling the water, makes the fish the more hungry ; and as the tossing of the waves emboldens them the more to range about for food, they then do not so easily discern any thing that may annoy them. The best baits to take them are, well-scoured worms, wasp-grubs, and maggots : and when you angle for them in river, pool, or pond, bait the place for three or four times with the same sort of baits you intend to fish with. The size of your hook for maggots in rivers, should be No. 6 ; in pools, or ponds, No. 5 ; for wasp-grubs, the same size ; for worms, No. 2, or 3 : your line should be strong and fine ; the bottom should be about two yards of fine gut or grass, with a swan or goose-quil float : the same tackle will serve for Carp or Perch.

Of

Of the C A R P.

TH E Carp is a great breeder, and full of cunning; and for its subtilty, has also acquired the names of fresh water fox, and grand politician of the watry element. He is a fat, sweet, and soft fish, and his flesh very nourishing: he is leather-mouthed, has no teeth, nor tongue; but nature has given him a fleshy palate to relish his food: he is covered with very large broad scales; is of a yellowish colour; has small barbs, or wattles, at the sides of his mouth; and his head is esteemed the best part of him: and indeed, the Carp is so very wary, shy, and timorous a fish, that to take him, especially in rivers, and in some ponds too, by angling, the angler had need to be indued with admirable patience. River Carp are much better than any bred in ponds or other standing waters; and some of them are purer than others, according to the climate, soil, and water they are bred in.—Of pond Carp, those that are fed in ponds of sandy, or mud bottoms, with streams, rills, or springs, are much better than such as are bred in still, standing waters, filled only by rain. The males are much better than the females, and the yellow much better than the white.

Their

Their spawning Time.

CARP generally spawn in May; and when a female Carp goes to cast her spawn, three or four milts follow her, she dissembling a coyness, they force her through weeds and flags, where she drops her spawn, which sticks fast to the weeds; then the males come and shed their milk upon it; and all the spawn that is touched with the milk of the males, in a short time become living fish, and none else. Carp begin to spawn at three years old, and spawn divers times in the year, but chiefly in May; for you seldom take a male Carp without a milt: or a female without much spawn.

THE numerous increase of Carp in some ponds, where they like, is wonderful; breeding not only to the over-stocking the ponds, but to starving themselves, if not prevented by storing other waters with them: they would be still more numerous, was it not for the great quantity of eels that some ponds abound with, which devour their spawn, let them hide it ever so secret. Carp, in rivers, spawn but once a year; and only in those rivers that are of very gentle motion, deep and weedy; and seldom breed in old ponds that are full of mud; nor in very cold ponds, or pits; but in such as are warm, and have marly, sandy, or clayey bottoms; in new ponds, and such as have been cleansed, and laid dry a winter season.

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Their

Their Age, Size, and Season.

CARP will live to a great age : but to account for the number of years they will live, is uncertain ; the older the better they be ; and will grow to a very great size : I myself have seen them thirty pounds a brace ; and am informed they will grow to a much larger bigness. They will live as long out of their proper element as any fresh-water fish, and endure carriage a great way alive, if properly managed.

THEY are best in season in March and April, being then fattest, and of a far more delightful relish than at any other time of the year.

Their Haunts.

RIVER Carp frequent, for the most part, the broadest and deepest, stillest, and quietest places in rivers ; especially if the bottom be muddy, sandy, clayey, grassy or weedy ; the shallower, and narrower parts of the river being then too cold, and too swift for them.

ABOUT the middle of April, pond Carp leave the deepest and stillest part, and resort to the shallower parts of the pond, amongst the weeds for fresh food, shade, and the convenience of rubbing and scouring themselves, to loosen their bellies for spawning ; and are then to be caught in, or near to, such places.

Their biting Times and Baits.

THE best baits to take Carp, are well-scoured red worms, maggots, wasp-grubs, or the green worms bred upon the boughs of trees and bushes ;

bushes; which last are very natural baits, frequently dropping in the water, which makes the fish resort to such places, both for food and shelter. There are many sorts of baits to take Carp, but the above-mentioned excel any for taking of Carp, Tench, or Perch: observe to bait the places you intend to fish, in the same manner as for Tench:—Your tackle the same, only this difference, fish more upon the bottom; the line and lead being not so easily discovered as at mid-water: the Carp being so shy and timorous a fish, are more difficult to take than any fish that swims in fresh water, especially in rivers.

Observations on the breeding of Carp.

GENTLEMEN that are desirous to breed large Carp, must observe the following directions: let the pools or ponds they intend to stock, be cleaned, mudded, and left dry for about twelve months, having then your store Carp ready to stock the pool or pond you intend stocking, sort the males from the females, putting each sort separate into the different waters you intend stocking: let your stores be bred from large Carp, not less than ten or twelve pounds a brace, but as much larger as possible: by this means you may depend on having large Carp. The stores bred from large Carp will grow, if the water and soil agree with them, more in ten years, than the other will in fifty. The small dwarf sort begin to breed at three years old, and breed so amazingly, that they

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never

never can nor will grow to a larger size, change them into what waters you will. Now to have stores bred from large Carp, the following method must be observed: take three brace of male Carp, and three of female, of the largest size, and put them together, alone from any other fish, into your breeding pool or pond, which should be kept only for that purpose: the Carp so turned in will breed a sufficient quantity to stock all the pools any gentleman might have, in succession, one year after another; observing the directions as above, to sort the males and females, and to draw the pool, so stocked with them, once in three years, to see how they thrive, and whether the water and soil agree with them.

CHAPTER the first of Carp, will inform you what kind of water and soil best agree with them.

IN pools, where the water cannot be drained off, and are over-run with this small bastard sort of Carp, which prevent the right sort from growing to a large size, owing to this small sort devouring what should support the others, and make them thrive; for which reason I would advise three or four brace of small Pike to be turned in, more or less, according to the largeness of the water, which will soon regulate your pool, and cause the largest sort of Carp to grow amazingly: This bastard sort of Carp being of no other use but only to feed Pike. In a few years after, drawing your pool, you will find the real sort of Carp thrive very much; and the

the Pike, by feeding on the small ones, grown to a large size.

GENTLEMEN sometimes are at a great expence in stocking their pools; when so done, they expect, in a few years, to have fish fit for their table, but they are generally disappointed; in the first place they may be the bastard race, which will never grow to any size; and if the right sort, bred from large fish, and not separated, the males from the females, and put into a kind water, will be a second disappointment; but if managed, as I have mentioned before, in my observations on the breeding of Carp, you will find it will answer every expectation.

Of the BREAM.

His Nature and Kind.

THE Bream is a broad fish, with a small head, big eyes, and a small leather-mouth, but no teeth; the palate of him is soft and fleshy, like that of a Carp, and very much resembling it in form, being very broad, with a forked tail: he is covered with curious network scales; his flesh is soft and clammy; the best parts of him for eating are his belly and head. His flesh is reckoned of better nourishment than that of a Carp, and of easy diges-

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tion : Bream grow very slowly, yet to a large size, and are great breeders ; therefore should be put into great waters only, for it is observed the milter has two large milts, and the spawner two large bags of spawn : therefore should be put in waters only with fish of prey.

Their spawning Time, and Season.

BREAM spawn the latter end of June, and beginning of July ; and are best in season in May ; though some think them best in September, having then had their summer's feed. Some will affirm that Bream and Roach will mix their eggs and milt together, which is a mistaken notion ; for the Roach spawn the beginning of May, and the Bream not before the latter end of June, or beginning of July.

Their Haunts.

BREAM swim in shoals or great companies, delighting most in gentle, soft streams, sandy or clayey bottoms, in the deepest, broadest, and middle parts of ponds ; or in the deepest, broadest, and most quiet places in rivers, near weeds.

How, and with what Baits to take the Bream.

THERE are many sorts of bait to take Bream, viz. Well-scoured red worms, maggots, wasp-grubs, flag, or seg-worms, which are found at the roots of segs in watery places ; likewise grass-hoppers, cabbage-grubs, and cod-baits ; but I think the well-scoured red worm the best for taking these fish. The river, pool, or pond,
you

you intend to fish in, must be baited for three or four days after this manner; take a peck of malt, boil it in a kettle, or rather stew it, then strain it through a linen bag, and when the malt is almost cold, repair to the water you intend to fish, baiting the places with part of the stewed malt, for three or four times; then having your tackle ready, after this manner; take two or three long angling rods, your lines strong and fine; the bottom should be about two yards and a half of good, strong, round gut, or grafs; use large swan or goose quill floats on your lines: your hooks, No. 4. Let your lead, to poise the float, be about a foot from the hook: being thus prepared, the best times to angle for them, in the hot summer months, is from three o'clock in the morning, till eight or nine in the forenoon; and from five in the afternoon, as long as you can see: if the place is convenient you fish in, and make use of two or three rods, let them be distant from each other about eight or ten yards, letting your bait just drag upon the bottom, keeping out of sight as much as you can; throwing in now and then, a little of your ground bait, to keep them together: when you have a bite, strike not too hastily, till the float is taken out of sight; then strike gently, keeping your rod to a proper bend, that it might tire him a little; for if both pull together, you are sure to lose the fish; either line, hook, or hold, will certainly break: but I would advise to make use of a reel upon your rods, for Carp, Barbel, and Bream; the length.

length of line kills the fish with ease, and makes the angler excellent sport.

Of the FLOUNDER.

His Nature and Qualities.

THE Flounder is a leather-mouthed fish, without scales, and of good nourishment; they strengthen the stomach, beget an appetite, and are well tasted; being originally a sea-fish, which wanders very far into fresh rivers, and there dwells, and loses himself. They will grow to be almost a foot long, and broad in proportion. The best Flounders have red spots.

His Haunts.

THE Flounder likes a gravelly, sandy bottom, and deep, gentle streams, near the banks, or in gentle streams that are a little brackish; and are to be found near sluices, and flood-gates, and close to the banks.

Their biting Times and Baits.

THE best baits for Flounders, are marsh-worms, dunghill red-worms, or gilt-tails, well scoured: Your line must be fine; your hook, No. 6, or 7; your lead must lie upon the bottom; and, when he bites, move your bait a little, very gently, which will make him more eager: He is very wary, and so cunning, that he frequently sucks the bait off your hook, and

and leaves it bare; and if he perceives the hook before he swallows it, will not take it at all. They will bite all day long, from March till the latter end of July, and but very little after that.

Of the BARBEL.

THE Barbel, is so called, from his barb, or wattle at his mouth: He is a leather-mouthed fish, having his teeth in his throat; grows to a large size, is very strong, active, subtle and fullen; that rather than be taken, will, if possible, break your rod, line, hook, or hold: He hath most curious small scales, so exquisitely formed, that therein you may see nature's perfection. He is of comely shape and complexion, and pleasant to look on; but is reckoned a coarse fish, though a very nice feeder. They swim together in shoals, afford the angler excellent sport; and the male is accounted much better than the female.

Their Haunts.

THE Barbel delights mostly in the swiftest currents, and in the summer frequents the shallowest and sharpest streams, chiefly where the bottom is uneven, the better to secure himself against the swiftness and violence of the stream; lurking under weeds, feeding, for the most part, in gravelly and sandy bottoms, rooting and digging in the gravel, or sands,
with

with his nose, like a hog, seeking for watery insects to feed on: He is to be found in deep swift waters, under bridges, flood-gates, and weirs, where he takes up his station; the current being ever so strong, cannot force him from the place he contends for. At the approach of winter he forsakes the swift streams, and shallow waters, and retires into the more deep and quiet places of the river.

Their spawning Time and Season.

BARBEL spawn about the beginning of May, being then at the worst: their spawn being then eaten, is very dangerous, for it will purge the eater, both upwards and downwards, even to the hazard of his life. They hide their eggs in holes dug in the gravel, covering them over with gravel and sand, much like unto the Salmon. Their prime season is August and September.

Their biting Times and Baits.

THE Barbel bites best in the summer months, from sun-rise till about nine o'clock in the forenoon; and from five in the afternoon as long as you can see. He is a very nice feeder, and curious in his baits; they must be clean and sweet, the worms well scoured, not kept in sour or musty moss: He will take a well-scoured lob-worm more freely than any bait I know of: The places you intend to angle for him, should be baited three or four times with large worms, cut in pieces; he is very wary,
and

and cunning, for he will often nibble and suck off your bait close to the hook, yet will avoid letting it come into his mouth. He is a fish that affords the angler fine sport, being so lusty and strong, as frequently to endanger the breaking the rod, line, or hook, by violently running his head towards any covert, hole, bank, or other place, for shelter; then striking with his tail to break the line, which he often does. The same sort of tackle will do for the Barbel, as does for the Carp and Bream.

Of the CHUB, CHEVIN, or BOTLING.

THE Chub is so called from his thick chubbed make, and is the same fish as the Chevin or Botling: He is a leather-mouthed fish, and a fish of prey; having his teeth in his throat; grows to a large size; is very shy, timorous and of great strength; but if you give him a turn he is sluggish, and easily overcome. His spawn is good, but his head is the best part of him, but if drest when fresh in the winter months, which being his prime season, he eats very well.

Their spawning Time and Season.

CHUB spawn the beginning of May; come in season in August, and continue good till March; are

are in their prime all winter, being then fattest, and not so bony as in the summer.

Their Haunts.

CHUB delight mostly in large deep rivers, and streams, and in the angles or deep holes of rivers that are shady; in the hot months they are to be found in or near to fords where cattle come to cool and shade themselves, feeding on the dung they then let fall into the water: They thrive well in ponds into which any stream or rivulet runs.

Their biting Times and Baits.

CHUB, at any time of the year, will bite all day long: The best baits to take them at bottom, are maggots, wasp-grubs, or beef's-brains; but the last the best. Your line for this purpose must be strong and fine; the bottom about two yards of good round, strong, gut or grass; the hook, No. 2, or 3; a swan or goose-quil float, with a cork; your bait must be within an inch of the bottom: You must bait those places you intend to fish, about an hour beforehand, with the brains cut in small pieces; that you put on your hook about the size of a nutmeg. When the fish bites, you must strike immediately; if you miss the fish you are sure to loose your bait, being so very tender: This is the best bait that can be used for Chub, and by frequent using never fails of success: The wasp-grub is the second best bait; and maggots are very good baits: They are to be taken by
bobbing

bobbing, or dabbing, in the hot summer months, with almost any fly you can catch; be sure to keep out of his sight, otherwise your attempt is in vain, being a very shy and timorous fish: He is to be taken with a cabbage-grub, grass-hopper, and cod-bait, either natural or artificial; which are all excellent baits, and will take almost all sorts of fish, in all kinds of water; in deep and still waters, as well as in bubbles, curls, and streams: And what makes this method of fishing more pleasing is, that you are always in exercise: It would be too tedious to enumerate the different sorts of baits Chub will take; but the best are what I have before mentioned.

Of the D A C E.

THE Dace is one and the same fish with the Dare; he is a leather-mouthed fish, has no teeth; is of little cunning, therefore easily taken, with proper baits: He is not much valued, being very bony; his flesh soft, and indifferently well-tasted, somewhat waterish, tho' of good nourishment; seldom grows to a pound in weight; is of a brighter colour than a Chub, but not so thick; nor has he red fins like a Roach, but is much like unto it in taste.

Their Haunts.

DACE delight chiefly in the deepest and stillest places in the river, in sandy and gravelly bottoms;

toms ; and in all rivers and brooks where there is no shade, being great lovers of the sun.

Their spawning Time and Season.

DACE spawn about the middle of March, come in season in September ; but the prime months are November, December, and January.

Their biting Time and Baits.

DACE bite at any time of the day, from sunrise till sun-set ; but best in the clearing of the water, after it has been disturbed with rain ; at maggots, wasp-grubs, small red worms, and paste ; all which baits are certain to take them, but maggots are the best. Your tackle for this purpose cannot be too fine ; the bottom about two yards and a half of single hair ; your hook No. 9 ; the shot about a foot from the hook, with a small float upon your line : By baiting the places with a few maggots a little time before you fish, you may always depend on having diversion. In a clear water they are to be taken with a fly, particularly the black-gnat, and the red and black ants. There are many more baits to take Dace, but the before-mentioned are the best.

Of the R O A C H.

THE Roach is a leather-mouthed fish ; has no teeth : His eyes, fins, and tail are of a red colour, and is a very bony fish ; and, for his

his simplicity, is styled the fresh-water sheep. They will grow to be about eight or ten inches long, and eat very well, especially their spawn, being a healthful fish, not subject to any disease; from whence comes the proverb, "as found as a Roach."

Their Haunts, spawning Time and Season.

THEIR haunts are much the same as the Dace, loving the deepest and stillest waters: They spawn about the middle of May; come in season about Michaelmas, and are very good till the latter end of March.

Their biting Times and Baits.

ROACH bite best in the summer season, from about four in the morning, till nine in the forenoon; and from four in the afternoon, till sun-set: In the winter they will bite from ten in the forenoon, till three in the afternoon, at any of the Dace baits; your tackle the same, and to be fished for after the same manner, observing to let your shot drag on the bottom; for they will take it more freely off the bottom than shallower. There is another excellent bait for Roach in the winter, which is a white worm with a red head, about the size of a cod-bait, to be found after the plough-tail, upon heath or sandy ground, or turning up the greensward of fresh land: I myself have taken with this bait, in the river Trent, thirty pounds weight in a morning; the Roach in that river run to a large size; from three quarters of a pound, to a pound and half in weight:

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When you use this bait, bait the places you intend to fish, with stewed malt, or fresh grains. This is the best bait for Roach and Dace known of, except maggots or gentles.

V Of the G U D G E O N .

His Nature and Kind.

THE Gudgeon is a leather-mouthed fish; has no teeth; feeds close to the ground, and seldom grows to be above five or six inches long: he is a round bodied fish, and of an excellent shape; his sides beautified with curious black spots; his back of a sad dapple grey; the brightest coloured are accounted the best: He is a very wholesome fish; grateful to the palate, of easy digestion, and very nourishing: A fish reputed almost equal in goodness to the delicate smelt.

Their Haunts and Spawning Time.

THE Gudgeon delights mostly in large rivers, or brooks that have gravelly and sandy bottoms, and in gentle, slow, running streams: In the summer months they lie in the shallow waters; but from about Michaelmas till April, they are to be found in the deepest parts of the water; and spawn the beginning of May.

Their Liting Times and Baits.

GUDGEONS will bite any time of the day, from sun-rise till sun-set; but particularly in
warm

warm gloomy weather, at small red worms, or maggots; but worms are the best. When you have found their haunts, bait the places with maggots, or worms, chopped; throwing in a little now and then to keep them together: If the water be clear, endeavour to make it muddy in the place you fish, which will make them take your bait the more eagerly, and your line and hook will not so easily be discovered. Your line must be fine; your hook, No. 7, or 8, letting your bait drag on the bottom, which will make them take it the more freely. The Perch and Gudgeon are excellent fish to enter young anglers.



V Of the RUFF, or POPE.

THE Ruff is a fish to be found only in few rivers; there are plenty of them to be found in the river Yare, in Norfolk; and in several rivers in Oxfordshire; and in the Teme, which empties itself into the Severn, near Worcester. The Ruff is somewhat like the Perch, but hath his prickles more dispersedly over his body; he is bony-mouthed, and hath his teeth in his mouth; his eyes are large, and dark coloured, brown on the upper side, and on the lower somewhat yellowish; the sight large and black, hath a black list all along his back, and spotted all over the tail and fins with black specks, and is much of the length of a middle sized Gudgeon, seldom taken above six inches long: He

is a very wholesome fish to eat, and is esteemed better meat than Perch of that size. He is called a Ruff, from his prickles and the roughness of his skin: When he is angry, his fins stand up stiff, but when appeased they fall flat again; so that his defensive weapons make him bid defiance to all the fresh-water regiment.

Their Haunts and spawning Time.

THE Ruff is a river fish, and delights for the most part, in deep rivers that have gravelly or sandy bottoms; and in kindly rivers will grow very fat: They spawn about the middle of April.

Their biting Times and Baits.

THE Ruff will bite all day long in the summer in cool and cloudy weather, at gilt-tails, or dunghill red worms: You may fish for them with the same tackle as for Gudgeons: They swim together in great companies; and are excellent fish to enter young anglers, frequently taking fifty or a hundred at one stand.

✓ Of the B L E A K.

THE Bleak is a small fish, seldom exceeding three inches long; is of a bright whitish colour, the back of a greenish cast, and his belly of a more glossy white: He is also termed the fresh water sprat; much resembling the sea sprat in size, shape, and complexion: By some he

he is called the River Swallow, from his continual motion and dexterity in catching flies and small insects, that float upon the surface of the water. He is a pleasant eating fish, if dressed soon after taken.

How and with what Baits to angle for them.

THE Bleak is to be angled for at mid-water, with a line, and about five or six small hooks, fastened at the distance of about six inches, one above another; baiting your hooks with small maggots, by which means you may take three, four, five, or six, at a time: they are to be taken by whipping for them, with two or three small gnats upon your line; which, in a summer evening, affords the angler very pretty sport.

Of the CHARR and the GUINIAD.

IN Winder Meer, in the county of Westmoreland, are caught the Charr, a very singular sort of fish, to be found no where else in England or Ireland; but are said to be in two lakes, at Snowden in Wales. There are Trouts caught in a small but rapid river, called the Pettrel, that runs near Carlisle, in the adjoining county of Cumberland, 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 distinguished in taste, inso-much as very frequently to be sent to London,
and

and fold as Charr. They take the Mayfly of both forts, and all the other flies 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 those in the Pettrel, in which last is a peculiar species of Trout, called the Whiting or White Trout; has no spots, but is of a beautiful colour, and his flesh is as red as the Salmon: He never exceeds twenty inches in length: He will take most sorts of flies, but particularly the red and golden palmers. In this river, as well as in the main riven Eden, is a Trout called the Brandling, clouded on the back like a Mackrel, but never grows to above seven or eight inches: They seem very much to resemble a sort of fish called Gravel-last-springs, which are to be found in the rivers Wye and Severn. There is a river called Duffield Beck, in the East Riding of Yorkshire, which produces the finest Trouts, for size, quantity, and quality, of any river I have heard of; being seldom taken less than two pounds, and often five or six.

THE river Dee, which rises in Merionethshire, runs through Pemble Meere, in Cheshire, which is a large water, and abounds with the kind of fish called Guiniad, as the river Dee does with Salmon; and yet it is observable that there are never any Salmon caught in the Meere, nor any Guiniad in the Dee.

Of

V Of the EEL.

THERE are four kinds of Eels, all formed without distinction of sex, of various matter, and multiply exceedingly: First, the silver Eel, he is blackish on the back, and silver bellied: By generation, her young coming from her smaller than common dressing pins. Naturalists will affirm the other three sorts are bred in the following manner; *2d*, The black Eel, whose head is flatter, broader, and bigger than any of the other kinds, and is bred, not by coupling, or venereal act, but out of a matter terrene, very soft, and fat, which lies, as it were, in beds of mud and slime, &c. where such matter aboundeth, prepared and adapted for their generation; into which the spirit of the universe falling, by the sun's heat, they are formed in a few days. *3d*, Eels with red fins, coming from the corruption of their old age. *4th*. The greenish Eel, being of a yellowish green on the back, white bellied and small headed; bred of a dew that falls on the banks of rivers and ponds, in May and June, turned by the sun's generative heat into Eels; and are generally called Griggs or Elvers. My opinion is, that these Griggs or Elvers are bred in the salt water, and come up with the tide into fresh rivers, at particular seasons of the year, and are then taken

taken in great quantities. The last-mentioned three sorts of Eels are of the viviparous kind, like unto the silver Eel, not being bred from spawn or eggs, as other fish are. All these sorts of Eels are frequently eaten amongst us, and do not only please the palate, but likewise nourish the body; and if not eaten to excess, are no ways injurious to mankind. Eels, of all other fish, have this extraordinary property, never to be out of season, though best in May, June, and July: They seldom swim up the river, but always down, especially when moved by thunder and great rains; and if not intercepted in their course, do, as it were, by natural instinct, find a way to the sea, from whence they never return; but love the salt water, thrive in it, and grow therein to a vast size: From this, their natural progress, it is observed that these Eels taken at mills, if not so stopped, would hasten to the sea.

Eels keep not company with other fish, and being tender and chill, cannot endure the cold like other fish, and therefore generally lay themselves up in mud, or moist earth, all the cold months in the year, both in rivers and ponds, the better to defend themselves from the severity of the winter, and there live without feeding upon any thing; so that few of them are then taken, unless by spearing. In the summer months they are taken many ways, which I shall mention hereafter.

Their

Their Haunts.

EELS, for the most part, hide themselves in the day-time in weeds, under roots, stumps of trees, under banks, in holes and clefts of the earth; and in the plain mud, with their heads only out, watching for a prey; under great stones, old timber, boards and planks, about flood-gates, weirs, bridges, old mills, &c.

How and with what Baits to take an Eel.

THERE are many sorts of baits for taking of Eels, but the best I know of are the lob-worm, loach, minnow, bull-head, or miller's-thumb: The best season for taking Eels is in the hot months, i. e. from May till the latter end of August; and to take a quantity of them, in river or pool, observe the following method; get a long line of Bedlam-twine, such a length as you think will reach across the river or pond you intend to try, then having your hooks whipt to links about three quarters of a yard in length, fasten them to your cross line, about a yard and a half from each other, your hooks being baited with any of the baits abovementioned, fasten the one end of your cross line to the bank, in river or pond, then having a piece of lead or stone, tie it to the other end of your cross line, and cast it across the river or pond, leaving it to lie all night, taking it up the next morning, you may be almost sure to have an Eel at every hook. There is another method of taking them with a line about a yard long, fastened to the small end of an hooked stick,
the

the hook is stuck fast in the bank, baiting your hook with any of the former baits : This is properly called bank hook fishing.

THE best way to take Eels by angling is with well-scoured red worms or wasp-grubs, which they are very fond of : Your line for this purpose must be strong ; the size of your hook, No. 4, or 5 : You might use two or three rods at a time, for in the summer months the Eels are prowling abroad for food, particularly after rain, or thunder showers, at which time they will keep you in constant employ to take them off your hooks.

How to take Eels by Snigging, Brogging, or Proaching.

WHEN you sniggle or proach for Eels, you must have a strong top-rod, about a yard in length, with a goose-quil put over the end of it, leaving the extreme end of the quil whole ; then taking a large strong needle, and a piece of whipcord 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 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 quil, 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 Eel he will bite at it : Be sure to give him time enough till he has gorged, and then

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 so you may draw him gently and slowly out. The best places for this kind of diversion is described in their haunts.

Of the MINNOW, or PINK.

THE Minnow, or Pink, is one and the same fish. These little fish are all without scales, but for excellency of taste may be compared to any of the larger size: The upper part of them above the belly, is of a greenish watery sky colour; his belly white, and blackish on the back: They are full of eggs or spawn all the summer months, for they breed often, and quickly arrive at their full growth. They lie not much in deep waters, for fear of being devoured by the greater inhabitants of the deeps. They seldom grow above two inches long. They will bite all day long, from sun-rise till sun-set, and afford young anglers excellent sport, frequently taking two or three at a time.

Of the LOACH.

THE Loach, in shape, is somewhat like a Barbel, having a beard or wattles at his mouth; his sides of a dapple-grey colour; his
G
back

back of a yellowish brown ; has two fins at his sides, four at his belly, and one at his tail ; seldom grows to be three inches in length : His flesh has a delicate taste, being very wholesome for sick persons. They are to be found mostly in small, clear, swift, shallow, gravelly brooks, under stones, but are very seldom taken by angling.

Of the BULL-HEAD or MILLER'S-THUMB.

THE Bull-Head or Miller's-Thumb, is one and the same fish ; is of an odd shape, no ways pleasing to the eye ; his head being big and flat, very disproportionable to his body ; his mouth is wide and awry, usually gaping ; his teeth are rough like a file ; the upper part of his sides decked with various coloured spots ; are full of spawn most part of the summer, and spawn in April. They are to be found in small rocky, gravelly brooks, where the water is very clear, and are easily seen upon any flat stone, or on the gravel, at which time he is to be taken with a small worm, and is more pleasing to the taste and nourishment, than for his shape and beauty.

Of the STICKLE-BACK, or JACK-SHARP.

THE Stickle-Back is the least and most contemptible fish ; his body being fenced with several little prickles, very sharp, from whence
he

he takes his name. This fish is only mentioned to make up the number of fresh-water fish, being too inconsiderable to afford the angler much sport; and the only use they are of, is to fish with them for a Trout, the same as with a Minnow. *Aristotle* and *Pliny* say they are bred numerously of abundance of rain; and that sometimes small fishes fall with rain; which it is very likely, are suddenly generated by the sun's heat, within a cloud of watery vapours, gathered together, of the same nature.

Of the LAMPREY, or LAMPRON.

THE Lamprey is a fish that affords the angler no sport, refusing all sorts of baits; but are taken in wheels or baskets, made of twigs, fixed at the bottom of the water for that purpose: They are much like Eels, slippery and blackish, but beneath, on their bellies, somewhat blue; on each side of their throats have seven holes, at which they receive in and let out, fresh water, having no gills; and about two feet and a half in length. Their flesh is sweet, good, and yieldeth much nourishment. There are great plenty of them in the river Severn, in Worcestershire. They are best in season in March and April, being then fattest and sweetest; in summer they are harder and leaner: and the inner nerve or string (given them instead of a back-bone) is then grown hard.

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FISH

FISH PONDS *and* STEWS.

IT is allowed by the most experienced anglers and breeders of fish, that those grounds are best which are full of springs, and apt to be moorish : the one breeds them well, and the other preserves them from being stolen.

The situation of the pond is also to be considered, and the nature of the currents that fall into it ; likewise that it be refreshed with a little brook, or with rain water that falls from the adjacent hilly ground. Add, that those ponds which receive the stale and dung of horses, breed the largest and fattest fish.

In making the pond, observe that the head be at the lowest part of the ground ; and that the trench of the flood-gate or sluice, have a good swift fall, that it may not be long in emptying.

If the pond carry six foot of water, it is enough ; but it must be eight feet deep, to receive the freshes and rains, that should fall into it.

It would be also advantageous to have shoals on the sides, for the fish to sun themselves in, and lay their spawn on ; besides in other places, certain holes, hollow banks, shelves, roots of trees, islands, &c. to serve as their retiring places. Consider further, whether your pond be a breeder ; if so, never expect any large
Carp

Carp from thence ; the greatness of the number of spawn overstocking the pond.

For large Carps a store pond is ever accounted the best ; and to make a breeding-pond become a store pond, see what quantity of Carps it will contain : then put all milters or all spawners ; whereby in a little time you may have Carps that are both large and exceedingly fat. Thus by putting in one sex, there is an impossibility of the increase of them ; yet the Roach, notwithstanding this precaution, will multiply. Reserve some great waters for the head quarters of the fish, whence you may take, or wherein you may put any quantity thereof.

And be sure to have stews and other auxiliary waters, so as you may convey any part of the stock from one to the other ; to lose no time in the growth of the fish, but employ your water as you do your land, to the best advantage. View the grounds, and find out some fall between the hills, as near a flat as may be, so as to leave a proper current for the water. If there be any difficulty in judging of such, take an opportunity, after some sudden rain, or breaking up of a great snow in winter, you will plainly see which way the ground casts ; for the water will take the true fall, and run accordingly.

The condition of the place must determine the quantity of the ground to be covered with water. For example, I may propose in all fifteen acres, in three ponds, or eight acres in two, and not less ; and these ponds should be

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placed

placed one above another, that the point of the lower may almost reach the head or bank of the upper, which contrivance is no less beautiful than advantageous.

The head, or bank, which, by stopping the current, is to raise the water, (and so make a pond,) must be built with the clay and earth, taken out of the pan, or hollow, dug in the lowest ground above the bank: the shape of the pan to be an half oval, whereof the flat to come to the bank, and the longer diameter to run square from it.

For two large ponds of three or four acres a piece, it is adviseable to have four stews, each two rods wide, and three long. The stews are usually in gardens, or near the house, to be more handy and better looked to. The method of making them, is to carry the bottom in a continual decline from one end, with a mouth to favour the drawing with a net.

FLY-

FLY-FISHING.

THIS sort of Angling, Fly-Fishing, is the most genteel, ingenious, pleasant, and profitable of the innocent recreation of Angling; to the perfect accomplishment of which is required, not only great attention and frequent practice, but also diligent observation and considerable judgment: It is the cleanest and neatest that can possibly be imagined, 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 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 sort; and when the water is in order, and plenty of flies, there are a great number of fish to be taken. 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 fish taking them,

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 hooked.

I shall set down a catalogue of those flies that are most useful for every month in the year, in their proper seasons, that those who please may take them, and such as desire not to become so compleat artists as to make their own flies, may nevertheless know, by the help of this manual, not only which are the best flies for their purpose, but how to bespeak them of others, to be not more deceived in the exactness of the flies than in the right use of them.

First I shall give you a catalogue more out of curiosity than use, of those flies that are not worth the angler's notice, and so proceed to those that are more useful.

A C A-

A CATALOGUE of FLIES seldom found useful to fish with.

- | | | | |
|----|----------------------|----|---------------------------|
| 1 | T HE Dun Fly. | 11 | Prime Dun Fly. |
| 2 | Ruddy Fly. | 12 | Black May Palmer
Worm. |
| 3 | Black Fly. | 13 | Calmet Fly. |
| 4 | Sandy-yellow Fly. | 14 | Oak Fly. |
| 5 | Moorith Fly. | 15 | Owl Fly. |
| 6 | Twine Fly. | 16 | Brown Gnat. |
| 7 | Wasp Fly. | 17 | Green Flesh Fly. |
| 8 | Shell Fly. | 18 | Harry long Legs. |
| 9 | Dark Drake Fly. | 19 | Badger Fly. |
| 10 | Dark Brown Fly. | | |

The most useful FLIES throughout the Year, and their proper Season.

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|----|--|----|---------------------|
| 1 | T HE Red Fly. | 14 | Green Drake. |
| 2 | Blue Dun Fly. | 15 | Grey Drake. |
| 3 | Brown Fly. | 16 | Orl Fly. |
| 4 | Cowdung Fly. | 17 | Sky-colour'd Blue. |
| 5 | Stone Fly. | 18 | Cadis Fly. |
| 6 | Granam Fly. | 19 | Fern Fly. |
| 7 | Spider or Gravel
Fly. | 20 | Red Spinner. |
| 8 | Black Gnat, | 21 | Blue Gnat. |
| 9 | Black Caterpillar, or
Hawthorn Fly. | 22 | Large Red Ant |
| 10 | Iron-blue Fly. | 23 | Large Black Ant. |
| 11 | Sally Fly. | 24 | Wellham's Button. |
| 12 | Canon, or Down-hill
Fly. | 25 | Little Red Ant. |
| 13 | Shorn Fly. | 26 | Little Black Ant. |
| | | 27 | Little Whirl. Blue. |
| | | 28 | Little Pale Blue. |
| | | 29 | Willow Fly. |

The

The RED FLY,

COMES down about the middle of February, and continues till the latter end of March, He is made artificially of a dark drake's feather, the body of a red part of a squirrel's fur, with the red hackle of a cock wrapt twice or thrice under the but of the wing ; has four wings, and generally flutters upon the surface of the water, which tempts the fish, and makes them take him the more eagerly: The size of the hook, No. 6.

The BLUE DUN FLY,

COMES down the beginning of March, and continues till the middle of April: His wings are made of a feather out of the Starling's wing, or the blue feathers that grow under the wing of a duck widgeon ; the body is made with the blue fur of a fox, or the blue part of a squirrel's fur, mixed with a little yellow mohair, and a fine blue cock's hackle wrapt over the
body,

body, in imitation of the legs : As he swims down the water his wings stand upright on his back ; his tail forked, and of the same colour of his wings. He appears on the water about ten o'clock in the forenoon, and continues till about three in the afternoon, but the principal time of the day is from twelve till two ; the flies then come down in great quantities, and are always more plentiful in dark, cold, gloomy days, than in bright sun-shine weather. Your morning's fishing, till the flies come on, should be with the worm or minnow ; the size of the hook this fly is made of, is No. 7 ; but if the water is very low and fine, No. 8.



The BROWN FLY, or DUN DRAKE,

COMES down about the middle of March, and continues till the latter end of April : His wings are made of the feather of a pheasant's wing, which is full of fine shade, and exactly resembles the wing of the fly : The body is made of the bright part of hare's fur, mixed with a little of the red part of squirrel's fur, ribbed with yellow silk, and a partridge's hackle wrapt twice or thrice under the but of the wing : As he swims down the water, his wings stand upright upon his back, his tail is forked, the colour

colour of his wings : He comes upon the water about eleven o'clock, and continues till two, appearing upon the water in shoals or great quantities ; in dark gloomy days, at the approach of the least gleam of sun, it is amazing to see, in a moment's time, the surface of the water almost covered over with ten thousands of these pretty little flying insects, and the fish rising and sporting at them, insomuch that you would think the whole river was alive ; a pleasing sight to the angler, and affords him great diversion ; in this manner they appear upon the water every successive day, till the end of their duration. The Blue Dun, and the Brown, are both on at the same time, the blues are most plentiful in cold and dark days, and the browns in warm and gloomy days, tho' I have often seen blues, browns and granams on at the same time, when they have refused the other two sorts, and have taken the browns only. There cannot be too much said in commendation of this fly, both for its duration, and the sport he affords the angler : The size of the hook he is made on, is No. 6.

The

The COWDUNG FLY,

COMES down about the middle of March, and continues till the latter end of April: When upon the water his wings lie flat upon his back. He is to be used in cold stormy days; is seldom seen upon the water but when drove there by high winds. His wings are made of a feather out of the wing of a landrail; his body is of a dirty lemon-coloured mohair, with a hackle the same colour, wrapt under the but of the wings, and to be made somewhat in resemblance of the large horse ant: The size of the hook, No. 7.

The STONE FLY,

COMES down about the middle of April, and continues till the latter end of May. He is a large four-winged fly; bred from an insect in the water, called the water cricket; to be found in stony, gravelly brooks, or rivers; his belly is of a dirty yellow, his wings

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of a fine blue colour, full of small veins, so that he is best made with a fine blue grizzle cock's hackle; the body with dark brown mohair, mixed with a dirty yellow. He is to be fished with at any time of the day, but does best in small brooks, or in the most rapid streams in rivers: The size of the hook, No. 3.

The GRANAM FLY, or GREEN TAIL,

COMES about the beginning of April, if the weather be warm, being a very tender fly, and cannot endure the cold. When they first appear upon the water, they come in great quantities, in bright mornings: you may begin to fish with them from six o'clock in the morning till eleven, then you will find the browns come on, which you must use, as you will find they will not touch the Granams as long as the browns continue. About five o'clock in the evening you may use the Granams again with success; the browns then having totally disappeared for that day. This Granam is a four-winged fly; as he swims down the water his wings lie flat upon his back, has a small bunch of eggs of a green colour which gives him the name of the Green Tail Fly, for as soon as he lights upon the water he drops his

his eggs; is of short duration, not lasting above a week, and then totally disappears for that year. His wings are made of a feather out of the wing of a partridge; or pheasant, which is shaded like the wing of the fly; his body is made of the fur of the hare's face, or ear, and a grizzled hackle of a cock, wrapt under the but of the wing: The hook, No. 8.

The SPIDER FLY,

COMES about the twentieth of April, if the weather be warm, and continues about a fortnight: They are bred in beds of gravel by the water side, where you may find them in bunches engendering, in order for their production the next season. In cold and stormy days they hide themselves in the gravel, not being able to endure the cold. You may fish with him from sun-rise, till sun-set, being a very killing fly, therefore cannot say too much in praise of him. His wings are made of a woodcock's feather, out of the but of the wing; the body of a lead coloured silk, with a black cock's hackle, wrapt twice or thrice under the but of the wings. This fly cannot be made too fine: The hook, No. 8, or 9.

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The

The BLACK GNAT,

COMES about the same time as the Spider fly, and continues till the latter end of May; to be fished with in cold stormy days, seldom to be seen in warm weather.— His wings are made of a dark blue hackle, and the body of an ostrich's feather: The hook, No. 9.

The BLACK CATERPILLAR,

COMES about the beginning of May, and continues about a fortnight, and is to be fished with after hot sunshine mornings; if winds and clouds appear, they then grow weak for loss of the sun, and fall upon the waters in great quantities. His wings are made of the feather out of a jay's wing, the body of an ostrich's feather, which I think far preferable to the plover's, with a fine black cock's hackle over the body. He is a very killing fly in small rivers and brooks: The hook, No. 7.

The

The LITTLE IRON-BLUE FLY,

COMES about a week in May, and continues till the middle of June: In cold and stormy days they come down the waters in great quantities, but in warm days there are few to be seen. As he swims down the water his wings stand upright upon his back; his tail is forked, the colour of his wings. He is a neat curious little fly, and cannot be made too fine; to be fished with from about eleven o'clock in the forenoon, till three in the afternoon. When these flies are on, the fish refuse every other sort, and take these only; every sort of fish being fond of them. His wings are made of a cormorant's feather that grows under the wing, or the feather of a dark blue hen that grows on the body under the wings, the body of water-rats fur, ribbed with yellow silk, with a fuddy blue hackle of a cock wrapt over the body: The hook, No. 8, or 9.

The YELLOW SALLY FLY,

COMES about the twentieth of May, and continues till about the tenth or twelfth of June, and is a four-winged fly. As he swims down the water his wings lie flat on his back. His wings are made with a yellow cock's hackle, his body is made with yellow dubbing only. He is one of the flies that prepare the fish to look for the May Fly, or Green Drake: The hook, No. 7.

The CANON, or DOWN-HILL FLY,

COMES about the sixteenth of May, and continues about a week in June; to be found on the butts of trees, with his head always downwards, which gives him the name of the Down-hill Fly. He is bred in the oak-apples; and is the best of all flies for bobbing at the bush, in the natural way, and a good fly for the long line, when made artificially: His wings are made with a feather out of the wing
of

of a partridge ; his body with a bittern's feather, the head with a little of the brown part of hare's fur : The hook, No. 7.

The SHORN FLY,

COMES about the same time as the Canon Fly, and continues till the latter end of July. They are for the most part found in mowing grass ; he is of the caterpillar kind, his husky wings of a dark brown colour, with fine clear blue wings under them, which he makes use of in his flight : Is in his greatest perfection in June, and, for the time of his continuance upon the water, is as killing a fly as any I know of, in rivers, or brooks : There are three sorts of them ; the one I have before-mentioned, as to his colour ; there is another with a dull red wing ; and the third with a dark blue wing, all which sorts the fish take very well, but the preference must be given to the red sort. To be fished with any time of the day, from sun-rise to sun-set : His wings are made of a red cock's hackle, with a black list up the middle ; the body with a peacock's harle : The hook, No. 6, if for a river ; but if for a dead, heavy, running brook, the fly must be made larger : The hook, No. 4, or 5.

The

The MAY FLY, or YELLOW CADOW,

COMES down the water about the twentieth of May, is of short duration, not lasting above nine or ten days. He is a large and beautiful fly, which both fish and birds are very fond of: They are most plentiful in gravelly, sandy, stoney rivers or brooks; but in some dead, heavy, dull waters, there are few to be seen. As he swims down the water his wings stand upright on his back; has a three-forked tail, is about an inch long, and is to be fished with from about ten o'clock in the morning, till sun-setting; being a fly the fish are remarkably fond of, they not only take them very eagerly at the top of the water, but feed on them as they rise from the bottom, where they are bred in husks, which they quit when they come to the surface of the water, and are so short-lived, that they are almost instantly devoured by fish or birds. It is an excellent fly for bobbing at the bush, as well as the long line, and is as killing upon standing waters, as in streams. When these flies are in perfection, the fish refuse all other sorts, and take these only. His wings are made of the feather of a grey drake, or rather the grey feathers of a wild mallard, dyed yellow;

yellow ; the body is made of the yellow wool of a ram, or wether ; his body is ribbed with a dark brown, for which no feather does so well as the hackle of a bittern ; it likewise makes the legs very artificially ; his head is of a dark brown, made of a peacock's harle, and his tail with the hair of a fitchew's tail : The hook, No. 5.



The GREY DRAKE,

COMES about the twenty-seventh, or twenty-eighth of May ; he is a large and beautiful fly, in shape and make very much resembles the Yellow Cadow ; seldom appearing on the water till about six or seven o'clock in the evening, and to be fished with from that time till sun-setting : All the former part of the day the fish take the Yellow Cadow very freely, but in the evenings, when the grey ones appear in great quantities, they will not touch the yellow ones. In fishing with this fly, you must endeavour to imitate the rising and falling of him on the water, being always in motion, frisking up and down, for which reason, in some places, he is called the Tilt-up Fly : He is not a difficult fly to make, but more difficult to fish with after he is made, and therefore, if possible, cast your line, so that your fly may drop directly over the
fish's

fish's head, which resembles the manner of these flies, dropping on the water; which method must be observed in fishing with these flies upon standing waters, as well as streams: But all other flies ought to be thrown about half a yard above the head of the fish, as they all swim gradually down the water. There are three sorts of Grey Cadows, and but only one of the sorts to be made artificially; the other two sorts seldom appearing upon the water, but are generally playing and frisking by the sides of hedges near the water side, and are much darker and smaller than those that frequent the water, therefore are not worth the angler's notice. The wings of this fly are made with a grey feather of the wild millard, the widgeon being too dark; the body, of goat's hair, which makes it the best of any thing I know of, the silver twist being too heavy, and too glaring in the water; the legs of a dark grizzle cock's hackle, which I find far preferable to the bittern's hackle; the head of a dark brown, made with a peacock's harle; his tail is three-forked, about an inch and an half long, which is made of the hairs or whisks out of the tail of a fitchew: The hook, No. 5.

THE following ingenious account of this fly, is very justly described by a gentleman, a very accurate observer of nature's productions; as it may be matter of curiosity and entertainment to some of my readers, I shall here give it them, as briefly, and as near his own words as I can.

I HAD-

I HAPPENED to walk by the river side, at that season of the year, when the May Flies, the grey sort, which are a species of the libella, come up out of the water, where they lie in their hulks 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 its case, and then with great agility, up springs the new little animal; with a slender body, four blackish-veined transparent wings, with four black spots upon the upper wings, and the under wings much smaller than the upper ones, with three long hairs in its tail; the hulks which are left behind float innumeraibly upon the water. It seemed to be a species of the ephemeron, and I imagined it was the same insect described by Goodart and Swammerdam, but a few days convinced me to the contrary; for I 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 surprizing change which is effected in two or three days. The first hint I received 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 clothes, though but so lately put on. I had the pleasure to shew my friends one that I held on my finger, during the time it performed

ed 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 to partake of any thing from its parent, but leaves, head, body, wings, legs, and even its three-hared tail behind on the case. After it has reposed itself awhile, it flies with great briskness to seek its 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 engendering, but all that I could discover was, that the males separated and kept under the cover of the trees, remote from the river: Hither the females resorted, and mixed with them in their flights; great numbers together, with a very brisk motion of darting or striking at one another when they met, with great vigour, just as house flies will do in a sunny room; this they continued to do for many hours, and this seemed to be their way of coition, which must be quick and soon performed, 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 seemed a pale bluish speck, like a small drop of milk, as they descended on the water;

water ; then by the help of their tail they spring up again, and descend again ; thus continuing 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 perish on the waters, which are covered 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 observed 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 aquatic insects. What is further remarkable in this surprising 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 its skin, and perform the principal end of life with great vivacity. The particular time when I observed them very numerous and sportive, was on the 26th of May, at six o'clock in the evening. It was a sight very surprising and entertaining to see the rivers teeming with innumerable pretty, nimble, flying insects, and almost every thing near covered with them : When I looked 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 disappeared.

The ORL FLY,

COMES down the latter end of May, and continues till the latter end of June : He is a four-winged fly, generally flutters along the surface of the water ; and is a fly the fish are remarkably fond of ; you may fish with him with success after the May Fly is gone, from four o'clock in the morning till about seven in the evening, at which time the Sky Blue comes on, then leave off the Orl and take the Sky Blue only. The wings of the Orl Fly are made with a dark grizzle cock's hackle, the body of a peacock's harle, worked with dark red silk : The hook, No. 6.

The SKY-COLOURED BLUE,

COMES about the same time as the Orl Fly, and continues till the middle of July : It is a neat, curious, and beautiful Fly ; his wings stand upright on his back, and are of a fine transparent blue colour ; his body of a pale yellow, with a forked tail, the colour of his wing. It is a fly the fish take extremely well from seven o'clock in the evening till sunset.
His

His wings are made with a light blue feather of a hen ; the body is made with a pale yellow mohair, mixed with a light blue fur, ribbed with a fine cock's hackle, dyed yellow : The hook, No. 8.

The CADIS FLY,

COMES about the tenth of June : It is a large four-winged fly, of a buff-colour ; his body the same colour of his wings : He continues on the water till about the beginning of July ; he is bred from the cod-bait, a curious little creature : While in the state of a grub, he is greatly to be admired, the out-side husk he lives in being curiously wrought with gravel or sand. This fly does best at the clearing of the water ; though I think him a fly worth the least notice of any in the catalogue, there being many sorts on at the same time far preferable to him. His wings are made of a feather taken from the body of a buff-coloured hen ; the body is made of buff-coloured mohair, with a pale yellow hackle for the legs : The hook, No. 6.

The FERN FLY,

COMES about the middle of June, and continues till about the middle of July : He is a four-winged fly ; his body very slender
 I 2 and

and of an orange colour ; he is to be fished with at any time of the day, from sun-rise till sun-set, being a very killing fly. His wings are made with a woodcock's feather, his body with orange-colour'd filk : The hook, No. 5.

The RED SPINNERS,

COME about the middle of June, and continue till the latter end of August : To be fished with only in the evenings after very hot days, from seven o'clock as long as you can see. There are two sorts of Spinners ; the one is made with the grey feather of a drake, tinged with a copper-coloured gloss ; his body with the red part of the squirrel's fur, ribbed with gold twist, and a fine red cock's hackle for the legs ; with a long forked tail, made with the harles of a red hackle : The wings of the other Spinner is made with the feather out of the wing of a starling ; the body of a dull red mohair, ribbed with gold twist, with a fine red cock's hackle over the body, the tail long and forked, and made as the former. These are both very killing flies, particularly upon rivers : The hook, No. 7, or 8, according to the water you fish in.

The BLUE GNAT,

COMES down about the same time as the Spinner, and continues about a fortnight : If the water be low and fine the fish take them very

very well, as long as they last upon the water : The wings of this Gnat are made with a small pale blue cock's hackle, the body with a light blue fur, mixed with a little yellow mohair : The hook, No. 8, or 9.

The LARGE RED ANT FLY,

COMES about the middle of June, if it be hot and sultry weather, and continues till about the fifteenth or sixteenth of July, appearing mostly in hot, close, gloomy days. To be fished with from about eleven o'clock in the forenoon, till about six in the evening ; then make use of the evening flies, as described before. The Ant Flies, when in perfection, are amazingly killing ; and all sorts of fish that rise at flies are very fond of them ; indeed you may take fish with them, in dead heavy waters, as well as in streams. The wings of this fly are made with a feather out of the wing of a starling, the body of a peacock's harle, made pretty large at the tail, and fine towards the wing, with a fine ginger-coloured cock's hackle, wrapt twice or thrice under the but of the wing : The hook, No. 8.

The LARGE BLACK ANT FLY,

COMES at the same time with the red, and to be fished with at the same time, and after the same manner. The wings of this fly are made

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with

with the lightest sky-coloured blue feather you can get, and with the greatest gloss; but it is difficult to find any that can come up to the glossiness of the natural wing, except the thistle, which makes it the best of any thing I know of, but is not lasting; the body is made with a black ostrich's feather, with a black cock's hackle wrapt under the but of the wing, and to be made in the same form as the red one: The hook, No. 8.

The W E L S H M A N ' S B U T T O N ,
O r H A Z L E F L Y ,

C O M E S about the latter end of July, and continues about nine or ten days; is in form like a round button, from which he derives his name; he has four wings, the uppermost husky and hard, the undermost of a fine blue colour, soft and transparent; to be found upon hazle trees or fern bushes. He is an excellent fly for bobbing at the bush, or long line, being rather difficult to make, upon account of his shape and form. His wings are made with the red feather that grows upon the rump or tail of a partridge; the body is made with a peacock's harle and an ostrich's feather mixed, with a fine black cock's hackle for the legs. The hook, No. 7.

The

The LITTLE RED *and* BLACK ANT FLIES,

COME about the tenth or twelfth of August, and are to be seen in warm gloomy days till the latter end of September; to be fished with from about twelve o'clock till four in the evening; to be made in the same form as the large one, and with the same materials, but very small: The hook, No. 9.

The LITTLE WHIRLING BLUE,

COMES down about the tenth or twelfth of August, and continues about three weeks. As he swims down the water his wings stand upright on his back; has a forked tail the colour of his wings; to be fished with from eleven o'clock in the forenoon till three in the afternoon. His wings are made with a feather out of the wing of a starling; his body is made with squirrel's fur, mixed with a little yellow, with a fine red hackle over the body: The hook, No. 8.

The LITTLE PALE BLUE,

COMES down about the same time as the Whirling Blue, and continues till the latter end of September: As he swims down the water

water his wings stand upright on his back ; has a forked tail the colour of his wings. It is a neat curious little fly, which the greyings are very fond of. To be fished with from about ten o'clock in the morning till three in the afternoon, and generally affords the angler great diversion. His wings are made of the feather of a sea-swallow, the body is made of the lightest blue fur you can get, mixed with a very little yellow mohair, with a fine pale blue hackle over the body : The hook, No. 8.



The WILLOW FLY,

COMES down the beginning of September, and continues till the latter end of October. He is a four-winged fly, and generally flutters upon the surface of the water : To be fished with in cold stormy days, being then most plentiful upon the water ; but in warm gloomy days make use of the Pale Blue. His wings are made of a blue grizzled cock's hackle, the body of the blue part of squirrel's fur, mixed with a little yellow mohair : The hook, No. 7. The three last-mentioned flies carry out the season for fly-fishing.

FROM the middle of May till August, you will find great variety of flies and gnats upon the water every day, so that you must observe it is a general rule, to fish with the first fly that comes on in the morning ; for that fly which is
first

first mentioned in every month, is the first fly that comes down in the day, and to be fished with first, and then you will see the other flies and gnats coming down every day in their regular succession, one after another, every succeeding day, till August. The great number of flies and insects that are upon the water all the hot summer months, and the great variety of food they have both at top and bottom, makes them very nice, and more difficult to take, than in the spring, or in the autumn; the great number of flies and insects that are upon the water all the summer months, totally disappear about the middle of August, so that your diversion is more certain with the three autumn flies, which are equal in goodness to the three spring flies, which are the Red Fly, the Blue Dun, and the Brown. In these two seasons of the year, if the weather be favourable, and the water in order, you will find your sport more certain and regular than in the hotter months. Some are of opinion that the flies differ according to the rivers, but I will venture to say they are all alike in their kinds, and are produced at the same certain times and seasons of the year, only this difference, they might alter a shade or two in their colours, arising from the nature of the soil through which the river runs. Now I have given you an account of all the most useful flies, and their seasons, except the two Salmon Flies, two Night Flies, and the Palmers; which I shall describe in their order.

First,

First, the DRAGON FLY,

THAT comes about the middle of June, and continues till the latter end of August. His head is almost all eyes, has four wings full of small veins, very clear and transparent, tinged of a copper-colour; his body of various colours, and about two inches and a half in length, and feeds upon small insects in the air, after the same manner as swallows do upon flies.

The KING'S FISHER, or PEACOCK FLY,

COMES about the same time as the Dragon Fly, and continues about a week longer; feeds on the same insects, and after the same manner. He is called the King's Fisher from the beautifulness of his colour; but the Peacock Fly I think the most proper name, being so near the colour of the feathers that grow upon the neck of a Peacock, as this Fly's wings and body are. It is needless to treat of any more Salmon Flies; for Salmon Flies, in general, are made just as the painter pleases. Salmon being fond of any thing that is gaudy; and they will rise at almost any of the trout flies, where salmon are plenty. Now I shall give you an account of the two night flies,

The

The BROWN and WHITE NIGHT FLIES,

ARE a couple of Moths, which come about the beginning of June, and continue till the middle of July; seldom to be seen at any time but in the night; and to be fished with in a dark gloomy night, after a bright sun-shine day, from eleven o'clock at night, till break of day, with success: But if it be a moon-shine, or star-light night, there are no fish to be taken. Your line for this method of fishing must be about a yard longer than your rod, putting two or three maggots, or a worm, at the point of your hook, for the smelling part; and you may hear them rise in as much perfection, as if you were fishing by day; and will take them in standing waters as well as in streams. The brown one is made of a feather of a brown owl, the body of a light mohair, with a dark grizzle cock's hackle for the legs. The white one's wings are made of the feather out of the wing of a white owl; the body of white cotton, and the white hackle of a cock for the legs: The hook, No. 3.

OF

OF THE

PALMER-WORMS,

That are to be made artificially, and to be used upon the Surface of the Water, after the same Manner as the Artificial Fly.

First, the GOLDEN PALMER.

HIS body is made of orange-coloured silk, ribbed down with a peacock's harle and gold twist, with the red hackle of a cock wrapt over the body: The hook, No. 5, or 6, according to the water you fish in.

The BROWN PALMER.

THE body is made with hog's dung, dyed of an amber colour, ribbed with silver and gold twist, with a red cock's hackle wrapt over the body.

The BLACK PALMER.

THE body is made with the black ostrich's feather, ribbed with silver twist, with a black cock's hackle over the body.

The

The RED PALMER.

THE body is made with a dark reddish-coloured mohair, ribbed with gold twist, and a blood-red cock's hackle over the body : The hooks the same size as the golden one.

HAVING now laid down, in the best manner I can, an account of the most useful flies, in their several seasons, that are requisite for 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, and then proceed to bottom fishing.

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 must be whipped on to your gut or hair in the same manner you would whip on a worm-hook, only with this difference, that instead of fastening near the bend of the hook, you must fasten your silk near the top of the shank, and let your silk remain ; then

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taking as much feather as is necessary for the wings, lay it as even as you can upon the upper side of the shank, with the but end of the feather downward, towards the bend of the hook, and tye it fast three or four times 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 downward, 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 fur 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 but of the wings, and there fasten it; then take your hackle and rib it neatly over your dubbing, and fasten it; then bending the wings and putting them into the form you design, bring on the but end of your hackle towards the head, and there fasten it firm; then taking a bit of dubbing or fur, 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 it 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 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

of learning: It is also very necessary to take notice, as you walk by the river, of the particular sort 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 though you miss at first, yet by diligent observation and experience, you may 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 learned by rules than that of making it; only I would advise the young sportsman never to incumber himself with too much line, not longer 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 has gone to its 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 gliding streams, for if it falls so heavy as to dash the water, you will be sure to affright, and not to catch, the fish. When you see a fish rise at a natural Fly, the best way is to throw about half a yard above, rather than directly over his head; and let your Fly move gently towards him, by which means you will throw it him more naturally, and he will be the more tempted to take it; yet nothing but your own experience and practice can make you master in the art, so as to throw

in difficult places; between trees and bushes; and into holes and curls of the water, where, generally, the best and largest fish lie, not easily to be come at by inexperienced anglers.

O F

O F
BOTTOM FISHING;

*Describing every Bait necessary to be used in
 regular Succession through the Year.*

Of WORM-FISHING,

WHICH comes in about the middle of February. If the weather be mild, and continues good till the latter end of May, you may fish with a worm at any time of the day, if the water be mudded or disturbed with rain, but if the water is low and fine, only mornings and evenings, in the most rapid streams: Your line, if an open river, should be a yard and half longer than your rod, by reason of keeping out of sight as much as possible; but in muddy water you may use what length of line you please, suitable to the water you fish in: Your line for this purpose should be pretty strong, the bottom part about a yard and half of good strong gut, or grass: The size of the hooks, No. 1 or 2, according to the size of the fish in the river or brook you fish in; your lead should be about nine inches or a foot from your hook, your hook armed with a bristle upon the shank to

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prevent

prevent the worm slipping down into the bend of the hook: The worm is a very natural bait to fish, being frequently washed into rivers and brooks by land floods, and generally take the largest fish.

THE best worms for this fishing, are the Dung-hill Red Worm and the Brandling, well-scoured in moss, or fennel; the former to be found under old thatch, or thatch and dung mixed together, though there are some to be found in most dung-hills; the Brandling is a very beautiful worm, streaked from head to tail in round ringlets, one streak red and the other yellow; chiefly to be fished with when the water is low and fine, by the sides of rapid streams: They are to be found in dung-hills where horse dung and hog's dung are mixed together, but the largest and finest are found among the shavings of currier's leather mixed with a little earth. These are the only two sorts of worms worth the angler's notice with a running line.

OF

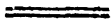
OF

MINNOW-FISHING,

Or Trolling with the MINNOW or PINK.

THE Minnow-Fishing comes in about the middle of March, and continues till the latter end of August; it is a most excellent bait, very destructive, of strong exercise, being always in motion, and affords the angler variety of sport: To be fished with at any time of the day from sun-rise till sun-set, and takes the best and largest of fish: By its quick turning motion, if fished with as it ought to be, provokes the fish to come if not upon their feed: Your line for this purpose must be strong and fine, with one or two swivels upon your line to help your Minnow to play and turn freely, and easily, so as to prevent your line from twisting and breaking; your hook large, not leaded upon the shank, but a cap that runs upon the line and falls upon the head of the Pink, which I find answers better than the leaded hook, and the Minnow spins more free and easy; besides, by the help of the cap, may be confined one, two, or three hooks to hang loose by the side of the Minnow that is baited
upon

upon the great hook, so that when the fish strikes at the Minnow, they are oftener taken by the small hooks than by the large one. This way of fishing is chiefly to be used in rapid streams, which helps to give the Minnow a brisk motion, by drawing your line pretty briskly against the stream; and when you see the fish run at it, take care not to snatch away the bait through surprise, which the inexperienced angler is not sufficiently guarded against. In the months of May, and June, they are to be taken in standing waters, as well as in streams, and there cannot be said too much in praise of this most excellent bait.



COD-BAIT FISHING,

COMES in about a fortnight in May, and continues till about the middle of June: It is a very killing bait, and will take almost every sort of fish in deep standing waters as well as in streams, mornings and evenings, till the middle of June. Your line for this purpose must be strong and fine, at least two yards of fine gut or grass; the hook, No. 2, leaded upon the shank, and the Cod-Bait drawn upon the lead. The way of using it is
by

by moving it up and down about a foot or nine inches from the bottom ; which, in angling, is called sink and drawn, by which motion the fish take it very eager either rising or falling. There is another advantage in this way of fishing, by which you may fish in rivers or brooks incumbered with bushes, near to stubs or roots in the water, in bubbles, curls or streams, and other places in the water that cannot be fished any other way, where generally the largest fish lie. These Cod-baits or Cadis are to be found in gravelly and stony brooks, or rivulets, under great stones, in small husks composed of gravel and sand ; you will observe that the ripest, and those fittest for use, stick to the stones ; when you have got as many as you want to use, put them into a linen bag ; tie them up and keep them five or six days, dipping the bag once a day in water, which makes them yellow, tough, and fit for use. This bait is made artificially, and takes as well as the natural, being not easily distinguished the one from the other, in the water.

MAG.

M A G G O T - F I S H I N G ,

C O M E S in about the beginning of May, and continues till the latter end of February in the next year ; it being the best and most killing ground-bait that ever was made use of ; it will take every sort of fish that swims in fresh water, except Salmon, Pike, or Shad ; though I have taken small Pike with a Maggot, but that is very uncommon. From the beginning of May till the latter end of June, Trouts take the Maggot very freely : From that time till the latter end of August they decline in their biting, there being not so many to be taken as in the two former months. About the beginning of August, greyling-fishing comes in, and continues good till the latter end of February ; though there are some few greyling to be taken all the summer months, but the prime months are September, October, and November ; being then in high season, and greater quantities to be taken than in any other months in the year. Maggots are the best baits for quickness of sport, and taking the greatest quantity of fish that ever could be thought of, in rivers, brooks, and ponds ; for, by throwing in a few handfuls of them, about half an hour or an hour before you begin to fish, draws the fish together, they feeding on them undisturbed, have
not

not the least suspicion of being taken, or decoyed. In such places, so baited, you may always depend on having diversion; your tackle suited for that purpose, according to the foulness or clearness of the water you fish in. The bottom of your line should be about two yards of fine gut, or single hair; the hook from No. 6 to No. 9; with a swan or goose-quil float upon your line; always observing that your shot drags on the bottom, especially in a stream; making it a rule to fish the deeps in clear water, and the shallows when muddy. There are a great many baits and pastes to take fish, but the Maggot must have the preference of all ground-baits.



How to Breed and Preserve MAGGOTS all the Winter.

FOR this purpose you are to get 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 covered than hanging in the open air: In two or three days after you perceive the Maggots to be alive, take down the liver and put it into a barrel, box, or large earthen pot, and there let it remain till you think the Maggots are of full growth; then

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 them 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 through the liver, and hang it across the barrel or pot, when the latter brood will soon drop out into the bran, and scour themselves fit for use. If you are willing to preserve Maggots 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 stronger than in the hotter months of the year, 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 preserve them from the frost in the winter, keeping them in a cellar or some dampish place in the barrel or box they were bred in; thus you may keep them till the latter end of February, and use them any time at your pleasure.

The GRASS-HOPPER FISHING,

COMES in about the latter end of June, and continues till the latter end of August: It is a curious fine bait very natural to fish, but very tender; to be drawn upon a leaded hook,
No.

leaded upon the shank, and the bait drawn upon the lead with a bristle, whipped upon the shank to confine the bait upon the lead. They are equal in goodness to the cod-bait, or grass-hopper, and will take the same sorts of fish. These three sorts are to be made artificially: To be fished with after the same manner, with equal success, as the natural ones.

THE White Butterfly is produced from the Speckled Cabbage-Grub.

THE Brown Butterfly is produced from the Brown Cabbage-Grub, or Sleeper, to be found only in the hearts of cabbages.

THE Dun Butterfly is produced from the Green Cabbage-Grub.

L A W S O F A N G L I N G .

THE laws of England being all public, ignorance of their contents excuses no offender. It will not be amiss therefore to say something of those which concern the angler, that he may have a certain knowledge how, without offence, to demean himself amongst his neighbours when he goes about his sport.

WHOEVER fishes in the river Severn with, or shall make use of, any engine or device, whereby any salmon, trout, or barbel, under the length appointed by the stat. 1 Eliz. cap. 17, shall be taken or killed, or shall fish with any net for salmon-peale, pike, carp, trout, barbel, chub, or greyling, the mesh whereof shall be under two inches

inches and an half square from knot to knot, or above twenty yards in length and two in breadth, or above fifty in length and six in breadth in the wing of the net, in the said river, from Ripple-lock-Stake to Gloucester-Bridge, or above sixty in length below Gloucester-Bridge, and six yards in breadth, in the wing of the net; or shall fish with more than one of these nets at once, or shall use any device for taking the fry of Eels, shall forfeit five shillings for every offence; and the fish so taken, and the instruments to be divided between the prosecutor and the poor. 3 Car. II.

If any person shall keep any net, angle, leap, piche, or other engine for taking fish, (except the makers or sellers of them, or the owners or occupiers of rivers or fisheries,) such engines, if they shall be found fishing without the consent of the owner, shall be seized; and any person, by a warrant under the hand and seal of a justice of peace, may search the houses of persons prohibited and suspected, and seize to their own use, or destroy such engines. 4 & 5 W. & M. cap. 23.

No servant shall be questioned for killing a trespasser within his master's liberty who will not yield, if not done out of former malice; yet if the trespasser kills any such servant, it is murder. 21 Eliz.

NONE shall unlawfully break, cut down, cut out, or destroy any head or heads, dam or dams, of any ponds, pools, moats, stagnes, stews, or separate pits, wherein fish are, or shall happen

to be put by the owners or possessors thereof; or shall wrongfully fish in the same, to the intent to destroy, kill, take, or steal away, any of the same fish, against the mind of the owners thereof, without licence of the owner, on pain of suffering three months imprisonment, and to be bound to good behaviour for seven years after; and the party, in sessions or elsewhere, shall recover treble damages against the delinquents. 5 Eliz.

NONE shall erect a weir or weirs along the sea-shore, or in any haven or creek, or within five miles of the mouth of any haven or creek, or shall willingly take or destroy any spawn, fry, or brood of any sea-fish, on pain of ten pounds, to be divided between the king and the prosecutor. Neither shall any fish in any of the said places with any net of less mesh than three inches and a half between knot and knot, (except for smoulds in Norfolk only,) or with a canvas net, or other engine, whereby the spawn or fry of fish may be destroyed, on pain of forfeiting the said net or engine, and ten shillings in money, to be divided between the poor and the prosecutor. 3 Jac. cap. 12.

By the statute of 17 Rich. II. cap. 9, justices of the peace shall be conservators of the statute of Westm. 2 cap. 47, and 13 Ric. II. cap. 19, and shall have power to search all weirs, lest by their straitness the fry of fish may be destroyed. And the said justices shall have power to appoint and swear under-conservators, and to hear and determine offences of this kind, and to punish

person is to lay nets, engines, or other devices, whereby the spawn or small fry of salmon, or any keeper or shedder salmon, under eighteen inches long from the eye to the middle of the tail, shall be taken, killed, or destroyed. Nor shall they make, erect, or set any bank, dam, hedge, flank, or nets, across the said rivers, to take the salmon, or hinder them from going to spawn; nor shall they kill salmon in the said rivers between the twelfth of August and the twenty-third of November, or fish with unlawful nets, under the penalty of five pounds for every offence; and for want of distress, to be sent to hard labour for not less than one month, nor more than three months.

THOSE that use any net or engine to destroy the spawn or fry of fish, or take salmon or trout out of season, or the latter less than eight inches long, or use any engine to take fish otherwise than by angling, or with a net of two inches and a half mesh, forfeit twenty shillings a fish, and the net or engine.

THOSE that sell, offer, or expose to sale, or exchange for any other goods, brett or turbot under sixteen inches long, brill or pearl under fourteen, codlin twelve, whiting six, brass and mullet twelve, sole, plaice and dab, eight, and flounder seven, from the eyes to the utmost extent of the tail, are liable to forfeit twenty shillings by distress, or to be sent to hard labour for not less than six, or more than fourteen days, and to be whipped.

EVERY

EVERY one who between the first of March and the last of May shall do any act whereby the spawn of fish shall be destroyed, shall forfeit forty shillings, and the instrument.

Extract from the Fish Act of 1765.

No one shall enter a park or paddock fenced in and inclosed, or garden, orchard, or yard, adjoining or belonging to any dwelling-house, in or through which park or paddock, garden, orchard, or yard, any river, or stream of water shall run or be, or wherein shall be any river, stream, pond, pool, moat, stew, or other water, or by any ways, means, or device, whatsoever, shall steal, take, kill, or destroy, any fish, bred, kept, or preserved, in any such river or stream, pond, pool, moat, stew, or other water aforesaid, without the consent of the owner, or owners thereof; or shall be aiding or assisting in the stealing, taking, killing, or destroying, any such fish, as aforesaid; or shall receive or buy any such fish, knowing the same to be so stolen or taken, as aforesaid; and being thereof indicted within six calendar months next after such offence or offences, shall have been committed, before any judge or justices of jail delivery for the county wherein such park, or paddock, garden, orchard, or yard, shall be, and shall on such indictment be, by verdict, on his, or their own confession or confessions, convicted of any such offence or offences, as aforesaid, the person or persons so convicted shall be transported for seven yers.

AND,

AND, for the more easy and speedy apprehending and convicting, of such person or persons as shall be guilty of any of the offences before-mentioned, be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that in case any person or persons shall, at any time after the first day of June, commit or be guilty of any such offence or offences, as are herein before-mentioned, and shall surrender himself to any one of his Majesty's justices of the peace in and for the county where such offence or offences shall have been committed; or, being apprehended and taken, or in custody for such offence or offences, or on any other account, and shall voluntarily make a full confession thereof, and a true discovery, upon oath, of the person or persons who was or were his accomplices in said offences, so as such accomplice or accomplices may be apprehended and taken, and shall, on the trial of such accomplice or accomplices, give such evidence of such offence or offences, as shall be sufficient to convict such accomplice or accomplices thereof; such person making such confession and discovery, and giving such evidence as aforesaid, shall by virtue of this act, be pardoned, acquitted, and discharged, of and from the offence or offences so by him confessed, as aforesaid.

THAT in case any person or persons shall take, kill, or destroy, or attempt to take, kill, or destroy, any fish in any river or stream, pond, pool, or other water, (not being in any park or paddock, or in any garden, orchard, or yard, adjoining

adjoining or belonging to any dwelling-house, but shall be in any other inclosed ground which shall be private property,) every such person being lawfully convicted thereof by the oath of one or more credible witness or witnesses, shall forfeit and pay, for every such offence, the sum of five pounds, to the owner or owners of the fishery of such river or stream of water, or of such pond, pool, moat, or other water: and it shall and may be lawful to and for any one or more of his Majesty's justices of the peace of the county, division, riding, or place, where such last-mentioned offence or offences shall be committed, upon complaint made to him or them, upon oath, against any person or persons, for any such last-mentioned offence or offences, to issue his or their warrant or warrants, to bring the person or persons so complained of before him or them; and, if the person or persons so complained of shall be convicted of any of the said offences last-mentioned, before such justice or justices, or any other of his Majesty's justices of the same county, division, riding, or place aforesaid, by the oath or oaths of one or more credible witness or witnesses, which oath such justice or justices are hereby authorized to administer; or by his or their own confession; then, and in such case, the party so convicted shall, immediately after such conviction, pay the penalty of five pounds, hereby before imposed for the offence or offences aforesaid, to such justice or justices before whom he shall be so convicted, for the use of such person or persons as the
same

same is hereby appointed to be forfeited and paid unto; and, in default thereof, shall be committed by such justice or justices to the house of correction, for any time not exceeding six months, unless the money forfeited shall be sooner paid.

Thus having given my Readers as clear Directions for Angling, as my experience suggests; and a copious account of baits, natural and artificial, whereby the Angler may rely on having sport, in regular succession through the course of the year, and laid down the best and plainest instructions I can, as well as a copious account of the Laws of Angling, I shall now take my leave of him in the celebrated words of the poet:

—————*Si quid novis, si rectius istis,
Candidus imperti: si non, his utere mecum.*

F I N I S.





