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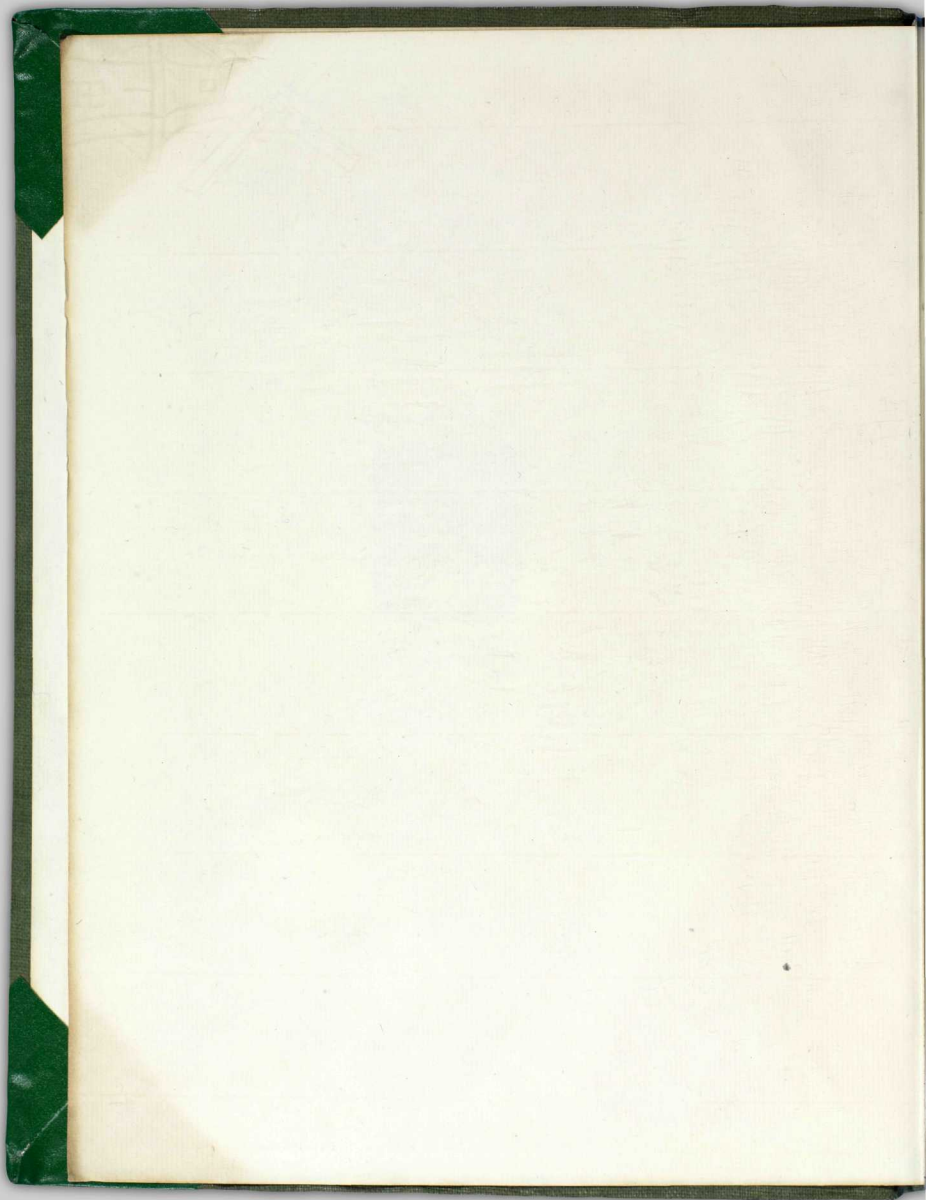
*Harry Hawthorn Foundation  
for the  
Incultation & Propagation  
of the Principles & Ethics  
of Fly-Fishing*



110 KDN

2 Vols.

122<sup>120</sup>



#

*This Edition is limited to three hundred and fifty copies,  
of which this is*

*No. 194.....*



# HOUGHTON FISHING CLUB.

ESTABLISHED JUNE, 1822.

Those marked thus \* are the present Members.

| YEAR OF<br>ELECTION | MEMBERS                                   | REMARKS             |
|---------------------|---|---------------------|
| 1822                | The Rev. F. Beadon ... ..                 | Retired ... .. 1876 |
| "                   | Edward Barnard, Esq. ... ..               | Died ... .. 1861    |
| "                   | William Beckford, Esq. ... ..             | Retired ... .. 1826 |
| "                   | The Rev. Henry Dampier ... ..             | Died ... .. 1831    |
| "                   | Henry Warburton, Esq., M.P. ... ..        | Died ... .. 1858    |
| "                   | Richard Penn, Esq. ... ..                 | Died ... .. 1856    |
| "                   | The Rev. William Garrett ... ..           | Died ... .. 1832    |
| "                   | Sir James Gardiner, Bart. ... ..          | Retired ... .. 1824 |
| "                   | Charles Taylor, Esq., M.P. ... ..         | Retired ... .. 1823 |
| "                   | Sir Charles Blois, Bart. ... ..           | Retired ... .. 1824 |
| "                   | Francis Popham, Esq. ... ..               | Died ... .. 1858    |
| "                   | Francis L. Beckford, Esq., Junr. ... ..   | Retired ... .. 1824 |
| "                   | Colonel Walhouse ... ..                   | Retired ... .. 1829 |
| 1823                | The Rev. Charles Beckford ... ..          | Retired ... .. 1826 |
| 1824                | Dr. William Hyde Wollaston ... ..         | Retired ... .. 1829 |
| "                   | Sir Francis Chantrey ... ..               | Died ... .. 1841    |
| "                   | Wadham Windham, Esq., M.P. ... ..         | Retired ... .. 1831 |
| 1826                | William Sloane Stanley, Esq., M.P. ... .. | Retired ... .. 1829 |
| "                   | Dr. Hodgson (Dean of Carlisle) ... ..     | Retired ... .. 1830 |
| 1827                | John Story Penleaze, Esq. ... ..          | Retired ... .. 1831 |
| 1829                | William H. Whitbread, Esq., M.P. ... ..   | Retired ... .. 1831 |
| "                   | Dr. Franck ... ..                         | Died ... .. 1833    |
| 1829                | Robert Snow, Esq. ... ..                  | Died ... .. 1834    |
| "                   | John Abel Smith, Esq. ... ..              | Retired ... .. 1830 |
| "                   | George Lovell, Esq. ... ..                | Retired ... .. 1834 |
| 1830                | Sir Hussey Vivian, Bart., M.P. ... ..     | Retired ... .. 1846 |
| "                   | John Jarrett, Esq. ... ..                 | Retired ... .. 1858 |

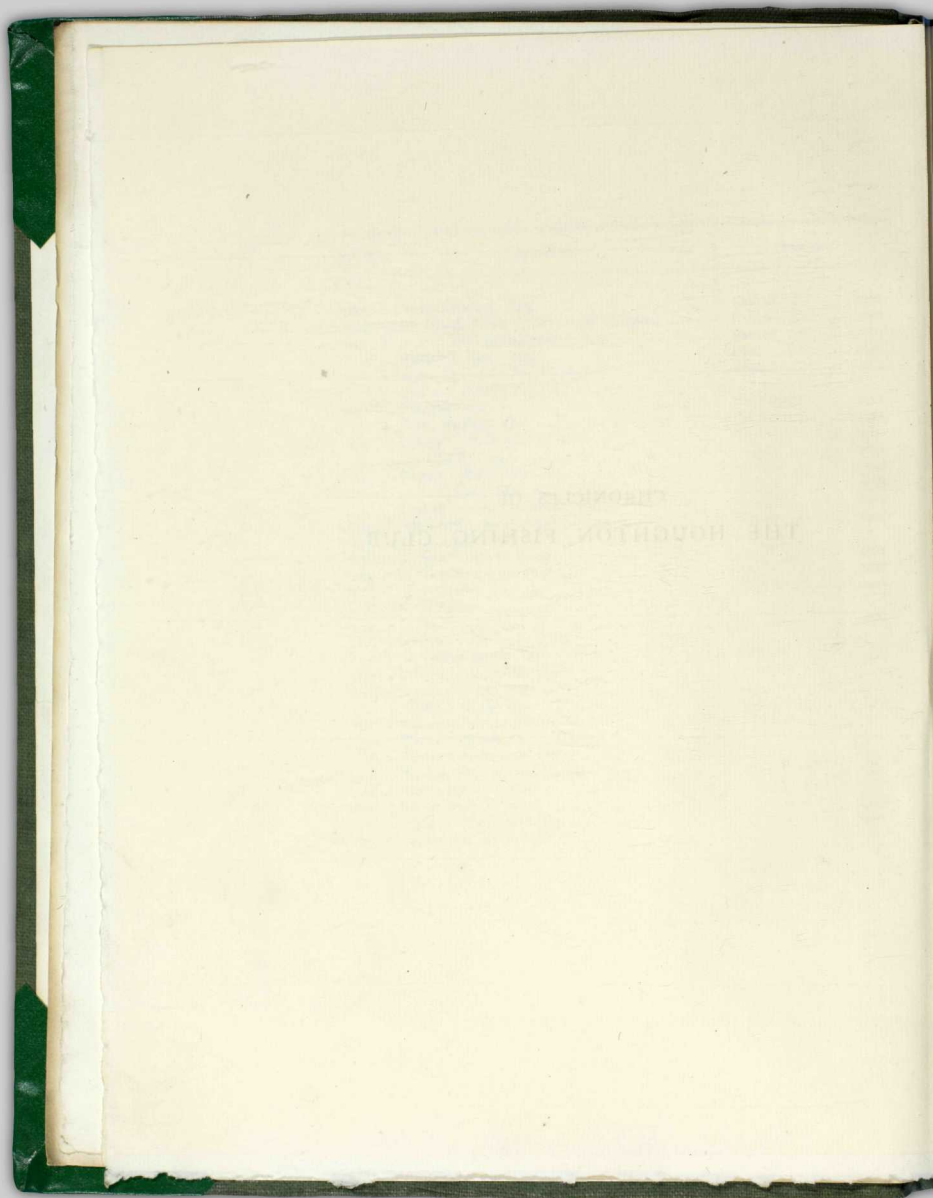
| YEAR OF<br>ELECTION | MEMBERS  | REMARKS             |
|---------------------|--|---------------------|
| 1831                | Captain Charles Yorke, R.N., M.P., afterwards Lord<br>Hardwicke ... .. | Retired ... .. 1850 |
| "                   | George Warde Norman, Esq. ... ..                                       | Retired ... .. 1877 |
| "                   | Lord Saltoun ... ..  | Died ... .. 1852    |
| 1832                | Colonel Mudge, R.E. ... ..   | Retired ... .. 1852 |
| 1834                | Robert Snow, Esq. ... ..   | Retired ... .. 1835 |
| "                   | Colonel Samuel Long ... ..   | Retired ... .. 1839 |
| 1835                | Sir Ronald Ferguson ... ..   | Retired ... .. 1837 |
| 1842                | James Sparrow, Esq. ... ..   | Retired ... .. 1844 |
| "                   | Henry Norman, Esq. ... ..  | Died ... .. 1867    |
| "                   | The Honble. W. Fraser ... ..   | Retired ... .. 1844 |
| 1844                | John Wood, Esq. ... ..   | Retired ... .. 1850 |
| "                   | The Hon. Henry Liddell, afterwards Lord<br>Ravensworth ... ..          | Retired ... .. 1847 |
| 1845                | Colonel E. G. D. Pennant, afterwards Lord Penrhyn                      | Retired ... .. 1864 |
| 1846                | John Bonham Carter, Esq., M.P. ... ..                                  | Retired ... .. 1867 |
| 1848                | The Viscount Gage ... ..   | Retired ... .. 1855 |
| 1849                | The Right Honble. John Wilson Patten, Esq., M.P.                       | Retired ... .. 1851 |
| 1851                | The Honble. Ralph Dutton ... ..  | Retired ... .. 1851 |
| 1852                | The Honble. Edwin Lascelles ... ..                                     | Died ... .. 1868    |
| "                   | Martin Tucker Smith, Esq. ... ..                                       | Died ... .. 1880    |
| 1853                | William Frederick Beadon, Esq. ... ..                                  | Died ... .. 1857    |
| 1854                | J. E. Blunt, Esq. ... ..   | Died ... .. 1856    |
| 1855                | Sir Thomas Sebright ... ..   | Retired ... .. 1857 |
| "                   | Charles Corkran, Esq. ... ..   | Died ... .. 1885    |
| 1855                | Sir Minto Farquhar ... ..  | Retired ... .. 1856 |
| 1856                | Major General Dixon ... ..   | Died ... .. 1874    |
| 1857                | Robert Clutterbuck, Esq. ... ..  | Retired ... .. 1859 |
| "                   | Sir Henry James, R.E. ... ..   | Died ... .. 1875    |
| 1858                | The Earl of Uxbridge ... ..  | Retired ... .. 1869 |
| "                   | The Earl of Aylesford ... ..   | Died ... .. 1871    |
| 1859                | The Earl of Ducie ... ..   | Retired ... .. 1899 |
| "                   | General Scott ... ..   | Retired ... .. 1863 |
| 1860                | The Honble. D. G. Finch ... ..   | Died ... .. 1882    |
| 1861                | James R. Wigram, Esq. ... ..   | Retired ... .. 1879 |
| 1862                | Colonel Loyd Lindsay, M.P., afterwards Lord Wantage                    | Retired ... .. 1866 |
| "                   | The Lord Penrhyn ... ..  | Died ... .. 1907    |
| 1865                | Pery Standish, Esq. ... ..   | Retired ... .. 1876 |

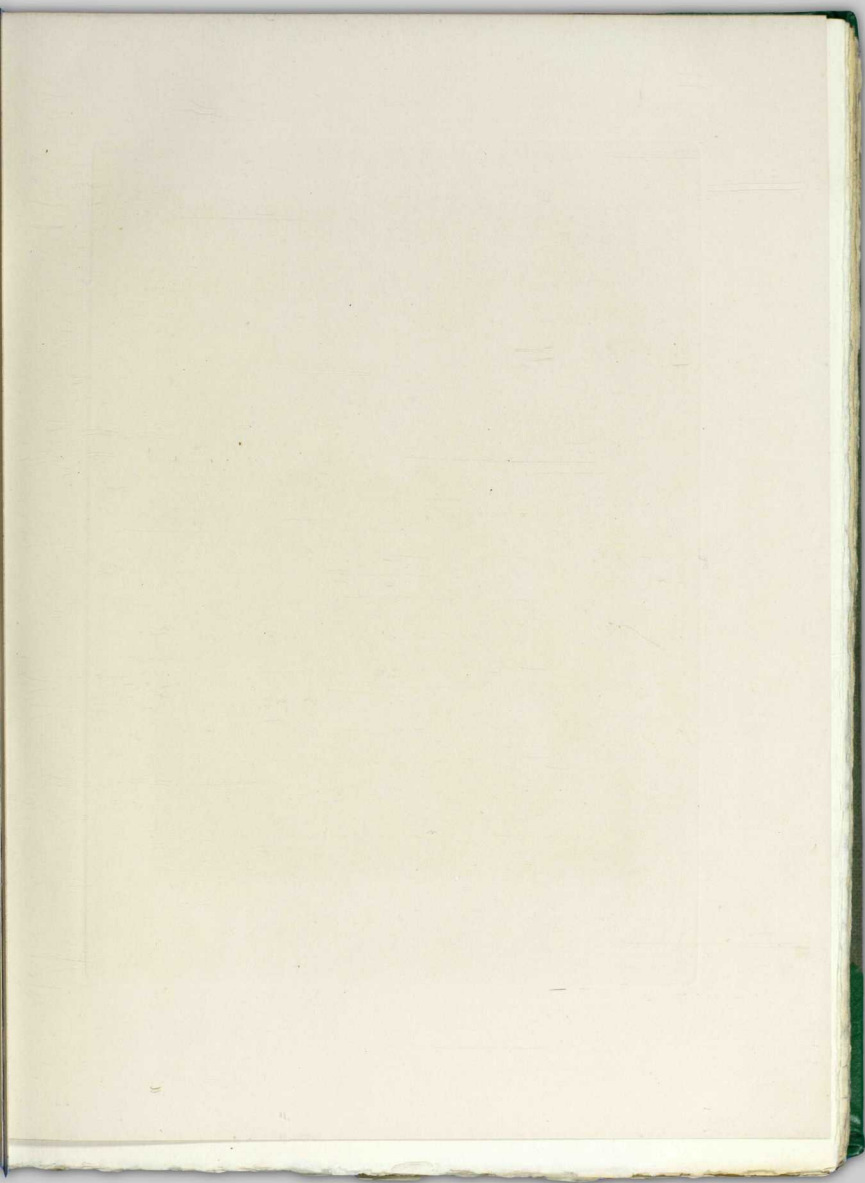
| YEAR OF<br>ELECTION | MEMBERS  | REMARKS                  |
|---------------------|--|--------------------------|
| 1866                | Alfred Denison, Esq. ... ..                      | Died ... .. 1887         |
| 1867                | Martin Ridley Smith, Esq. ... ..                 | Retired ... .. 1904      |
| 1868                | J. Stewart Hodgson, Esq. ... ..                  | Retired ... .. 1890      |
| "                   | Arthur Campbell, Esq. ... ..                     | Retired ... .. 1872      |
| 1869                | General Godfrey Wigram, C.B. ... ..              | Retired ... .. 1909      |
| 1871                | Herbert G. H. Norman, Esq. ... ..                | Died ... .. 1902         |
| 1877                | Captain Lawrence Trent Cave ... ..               | Retired ... .. 1881      |
| 1878                | Frederick H. Whymper, Esq. ... ..                | Retired ... .. 1883      |
| 1879                | The Lord Moreton ... ..                          | Died ... .. 1920         |
| 1880                | Colonel Seymour Corkran ... ..                   | Retired ... .. 1903      |
| 1881                | Everard A. Hambro, Esq. ... ..                   | Retired ... .. 1890      |
| 1884                | Sir Gerard Smith ... ..                          | Retired ... .. 1886      |
| 1885                | Sir John R. Gladstone, Bart. ... ..              | Retired ... .. 1903      |
| 1886                | The Lord Hindlip ... ..                          | Retired ... .. 1895      |
| 1887                | The Honble. E. S. D. Pennant, M.P. ... ..        | Retired ... .. 1899      |
| 1888                | Rupert O. Smith, Esq. ... ..                     | Retired ... .. 1909      |
| 1891                | T. Farley Turner, Esq. ... ..                    | Retired ... .. 1894      |
| "                   | Nigel M. Smith, Esq. ... ..                      | Retired ... .. 1894      |
| 1893                | The Marquis of Winchester ... ..                 | Killed in Action... 1899 |
| "                   | D. Meinertzhagen, Esq. ... ..                    | Died ... .. 1910         |
| "                   | R. D. Balfour, Esq. ... ..                       | Retired ... .. 1911      |
| "                   | Selwyn R. Pryor, Esq. ... ..                     | Retired ... .. 1905      |
| 1895                | The Honble. E. Johnstone ... ..                  | Retired ... .. 1897      |
| "                   | The Lord Henry Bentick, M.P. ... ..              | Retired ... .. 1895      |
| 1896                | Robert Wharton, Esq. ... ..                      | Retired ... .. 1907      |
| "                   | *Arthur N. Gilbey, Esq. ... ..                   |                          |
| 1898                | F. W. Ramsden, Esq. ... ..                       | Retired ... .. 1903      |
| 1900                | *Robert L. Newman, Esq. ... ..                   |                          |
| "                   | Richard Combe, Esq. ... ..                       | Retired ... .. 1913      |
| "                   | Arthur H. Young, Esq. ... ..                     | Retired ... .. 1907      |
| 1903                | The Earl of Hardwicke ... ..                     | Died ... .. 1904         |
| 1904                | *R. P. Page, Esq., C.B.E. ... ..                 |                          |
| "                   | Arthur C. Hammersley, Esq. ... ..                | Retired ... .. 1907      |
| "                   | Sir Basil Montgomery, Bart. ... ..               | Retired ... .. 1904      |
| 1905                | Colonel Stephenson R. Clarke, C.B. ... ..        | Retired ... .. 1922      |
| "                   | The Lord Lucas ... ..                            | Killed in Action... 1917 |
| "                   | The Lord Aberdare ... ..                         | Retired ... .. 1907      |
| 1906                | Sir John R. Gladstone, Bart. (re-elected) ... .. | Retired ... .. 1914      |

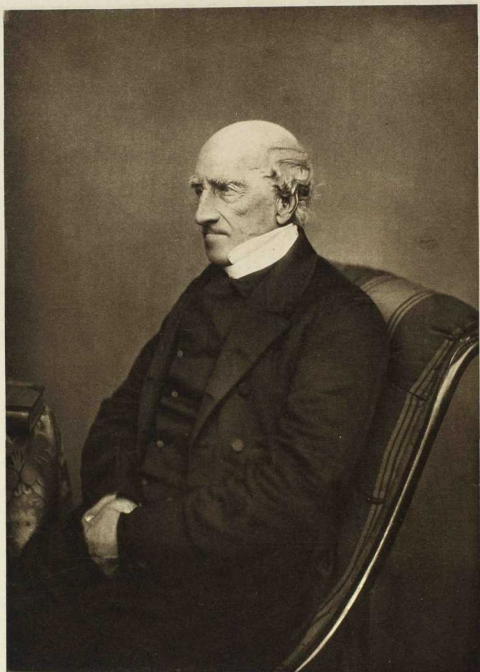
| YEAR OF<br>ELECTION | MEMBERS                                      | REMARKS             |
|---------------------|--|---------------------|
| 1907                | Richard Mashiter, Esq. ... ..                | Retired ... .. 1912 |
| 1908                | The Honble. Herbert Gibbs (Lord Hunsdon) ... | Retired ... .. 1924 |
| "                   | N. V. C. Dalrymple-Hamilton, Esq. ... ..     | Retired ... .. 1912 |
| "                   | Edward J. Power, Esq. ... ..                 | Died ... .. 1916    |
| 1909                | Arthur H. Young, Esq. (re-elected) ... ..    | Retired ... .. 1911 |
| "                   | *Charles C. Branch, Esq., O.B.E. ... ..      |                     |
| 1910                | Viscount Coke ... ..                         | Retired ... .. 1912 |
| "                   | Henry Birkbeck, Esq. ... ..                  | Retired ... .. 1915 |
| 1912                | Captain G. V. Clarke, D.S.O. ... ..          | Retired ... .. 1920 |
| "                   | G. A. Talbot, Esq. ... ..                    | Retired ... .. 1918 |
| 1913                | Horace G. Hutchinson, Esq. ... ..            | Retired ... .. 1918 |
| "                   | C. F. H. Leslie, Esq. ... ..                 | Retired ... .. 1918 |
| "                   | Colonel Forrester F. Colvin, C.B.E. ... ..   | Retired ... .. 1921 |
| 1914                | The Honble. Geoffrey Hope Morley ... ..      | Retired ... .. 1915 |
| 1915                | *W. J. Barry, Esq. ... ..                    |                     |
| 1916                | Captain Merric W. Bovill ... ..              | Retired ... .. 1921 |
| "                   | A. R. Wilson Wood, Esq. ... ..               | Retired ... .. 1917 |
| 1917                | V. C. Vickers, Esq. ... ..                   | Retired ... .. 1918 |
| 1917                | *Lord Bolton ... ..                          |                     |
| 1917                | P. H. Thomas, Esq. ... ..                    | Retired ... .. 1922 |
| 1919                | *Lt.-Col. W. M. Pryor, D.S.O. ... ..         |                     |
| 1919                | R. Stewart Savile, Esq. ... ..               | Retired ... .. 1921 |
| 1919                | *Lt.-Col. J. M. Rogers, D.S.O. ... ..        |                     |
| 1919                | *J. Stuart Paton, Esq. ... ..                |                     |
| 1920                | Ralph S. Clarke, Esq. ... ..                 | Retired ... .. 1924 |
| 1921                | *Viscount Coke (re-elected) ... ..           |                     |
| 1922                | *Henry Birkbeck, Esq. (re-elected) ... ..    |                     |
| 1922                | *Major J. A. Morrison, D.S.O. ... ..         |                     |
| 1922                | *Lt.-Col. Eustace Morrison-Bell ... ..       |                     |
| 1923                | *Oliver Birkbeck, Esq. ... ..                |                     |
| 1923                | *Major W. H. S. Alston ... ..                |                     |
| 1925                | *Cecil B. Harmsworth, Esq. ... ..            |                     |
| 1925                | *Major John Waller Hills ... ..              |                     |



CHRONICLES OF  
THE HOUGHTON FISHING CLUB







REV. CANON F. BEADON,  
ÆTAT 100.



CHRONICLES OF  
THE HOUGHTON  
FISHING CLUB

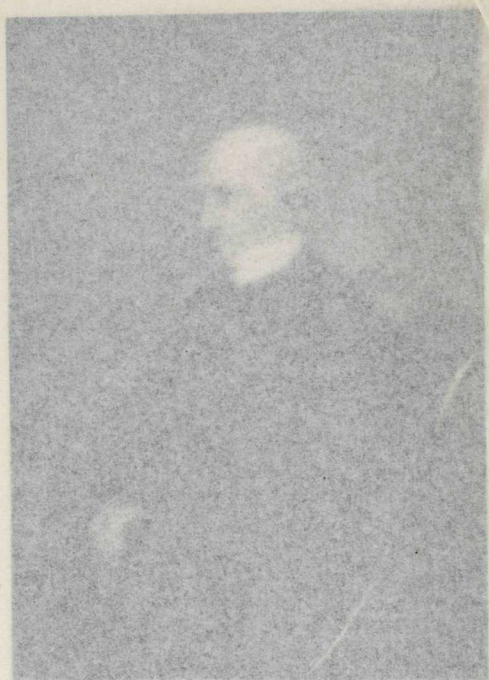
1822-1908

EDITED BY  
SIR HERBERT MAXWELL  
FROM THE JOURNALS OF THE CLUB

*Oft not in court or camp  
Our best delights we find,  
But in the far resort  
With water, wood and wind;  
Where Nature works  
And heavy lures  
In all her craft enshrine.*  
—T. T. STODART

LONDON  
EDWARD ARNOLD  
1908

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W. S. F. REASON  
1870-1880

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1822-1908

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In all her craft enshrined.*  
—T. T. STODDART

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1908

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CHRONICLES OF  
THE HOUGHTON  
FISHING CLUB

1877-1908

EDITED BY  
SIR HENRY M. MANN  
F.R.S.

LONDON  
EDWARD ARNOLD  
1908



DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY  
OF DEPARTED MEMBERS  
AND TO THE FAVOUR OF  
PRESENT MEMBERS OF THE  
HOUGHTON FISHING CLUB

PROPERTY OF THE  
OF DISTRICT NUMBER  
AND TO THE BOARD OF  
PRESENT NUMBER OF THE  
FOURTH - FIFTH - SIXTH

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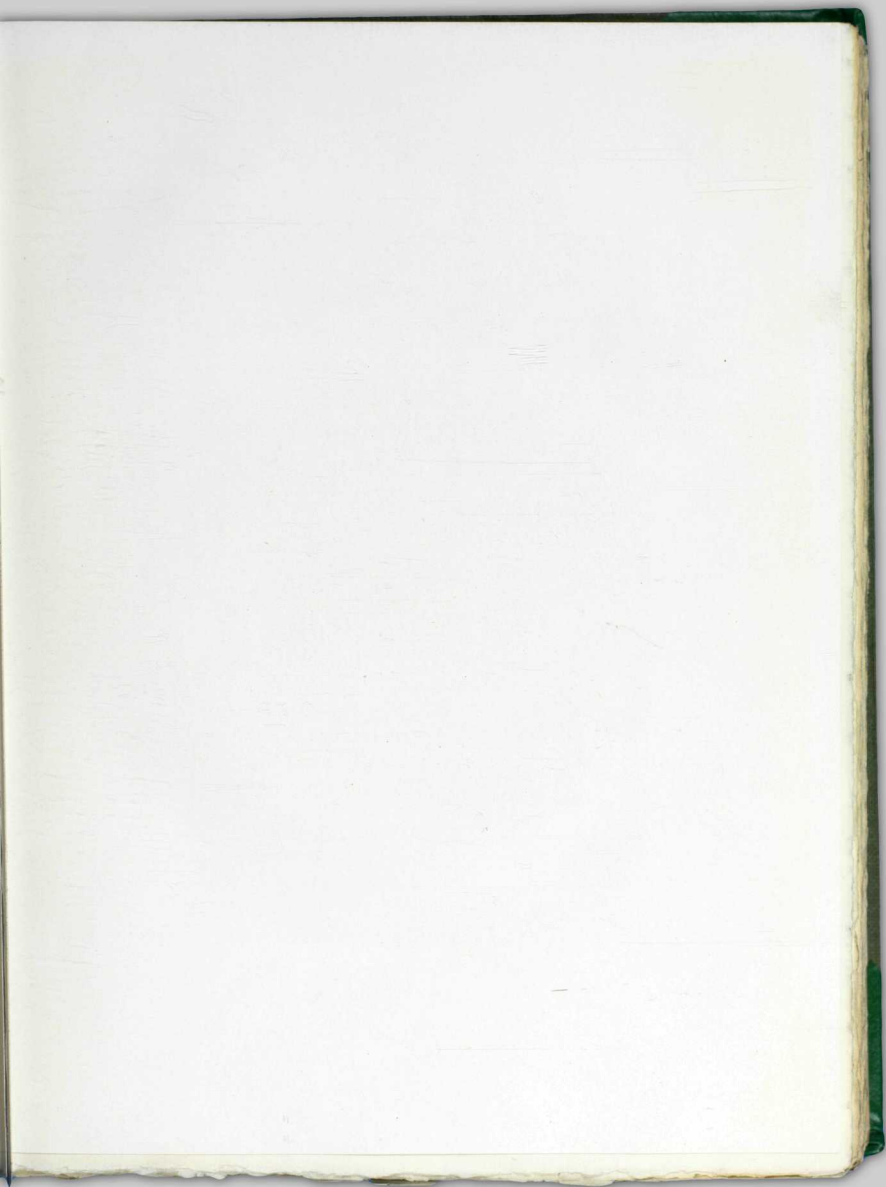
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*Martin R. Smith, del.*

DINING TENT OF THE HOUGHTON FISHING CLUB.

## CHRONICLES OF THE HOUGHTON FISHING CLUB

### INTRODUCTION

THE Houghton Fishing Club was founded in June 1822, after the manner described in the following letter written to Mr. Martin T. Smith by the Rev. Canon F. Beadon at the age of eighty-eight, he being still a member of the Club:—

"N. Seneham, 7th June 1865.—I am very happy to hear from you and will give you whatever information I can furnish respecting our Club.

"I will begin with a circumstance which may account for some little mistake regarding the founders.

"Poor Barnard and I had been fishing, as visitors, at Longstock, and on our way back we learned from the landlord of the hotel [at Stock-bridge] that the fishery would be let. After a little correspondence with King, the landlord, we secured the water—that is, Barnard and myself. Finding that Popham occasionally fished at Houghton, and knowing him to be my old friend, we immediately after offered him the opportunity of joining us, an offer he accepted; we then added other members.

"Now I must add—previous to this engagement of our water, I had had an offer from my friend, old Sir Charles Rich, to join the Longstock Club in case of a vacancy which was expected, and I therefore told Barnard that, if elected, I must leave the Houghton party. The vacancy occurred, and I left the Houghton Club for my previous engagement; and, after four or five years, when, owing to the present Edward's coming of age, the Longstock Club terminated, myself, Snow, Jarrett, and Sir H. Vivian were received into our present excellent Club.



*Maria B. Smith, del.*

DISSEMINATION OF THE DISSEMINATION FISHING CLUB.

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## 2 THE HOUGHTON FISHING CLUB [1822-

. . . Now regarding grayling, my great day at Longstock—14 fish, 37 lb. 3 oz.—was in June 1823, and the grayling were then spared by us, as Mr. Tate, who turned them in from John Mills, wished them to be fully established. They were turned in about 1815 or 1816."

The Longstock Club, referred to by Canon Beadon, had been formed in 1809, when it consisted of five members. After it had been dissolved in 1827, its members were elected to the Houghton Club; but the Longstock Club was subsequently reconstituted, and still continues, claiming to be the oldest fishing club in existence.

The following is a list of members of the Houghton Club from the foundation to the present time, the names of present members being marked with an asterisk.

| YEAR OF ELECTION. | MEMBERS.                                   | REMARKS.         |
|-------------------|--|------------------|
| 1822              | The Rev. F. Beadon . . . . .               | Retired . . 1876 |
| "                 | Edward Barnard, Esq. . . . .               | Died . . 1861    |
| "                 | William Beckford, Esq. . . . .             | Retired . . 1826 |
| "                 | The Rev. Henry Dampier . . . . .           | Died . . 1831    |
| "                 | Henry Warburton, Esq., M.P. . . . .        | Died . . 1858    |
| "                 | Richard Penn, Esq. . . . .                 | Died . . 1856    |
| "                 | The Rev. William Garrett . . . . .         | Died . . 1832    |
| "                 | Sir James Gardiner, Bart. . . . .          | Retired . . 1824 |
| "                 | Charles Taylor, Esq., M.P. . . . .         | Retired . . 1823 |
| "                 | Sir Charles Blois, Bart. . . . .           | Retired . . 1824 |
| "                 | Francis Popham, Esq. . . . .               | Died . . 1858    |
| "                 | Francis L. Beckford, Esq., Junr. . . . .   | Retired . . 1824 |
| "                 | Colonel Walhouse . . . . .                 | Retired . . 1829 |
| 1823              | The Rev. Charles Beckford . . . . .        | Retired . . 1826 |
| 1824              | Dr. William Hyde Wollaston . . . . .       | Retired . . 1829 |
| "                 | Sir Francis Chantrey . . . . .             | Died . . 1841    |
| "                 | Wadham Windham, Esq., M.P. . . . .         | Retired . . 1831 |
| 1826              | William Sloane Stanley, Esq., M.P. . . . . | Retired . . 1829 |
| "                 | Dr. Hodgson (Dean of Carlisle) . . . . .   | Retired . . 1830 |
| 1827              | John Story Penlezze, Esq. . . . .          | Retired . . 1831 |
| 1829              | William H. Whitbread, Esq., M.P. . . . .   | Retired . . 1831 |
| "                 | Dr. Franck . . . . .                       | Died . . 1833    |
| "                 | Robert Snow, Esq. . . . .                  | Died . . 1834    |
| "                 | John Abel Smith, Esq. . . . .              | Retired . . 1830 |
| "                 | George Lovell, Esq. . . . .                | Retired . . 1834 |
| 1830              | Sir Hussey Vivian, Bart., M.P. . . . .     | Retired . . 1846 |
| "                 | John Jarrett, Esq. . . . .                 | Retired . . 1858 |

| YEAR OF ELECTION. | MEMBERS.  | REMARKS.         |
|-------------------|---|------------------|
| 1831              | Captain Charles York, R.N., M.P., afterwards Lord Hardwicke . . . . . | Retired . . 1850 |
| "                 | George Warde Norman, Esq. . . . .                                     | Retired . . 1877 |
| "                 | Lord Saltoun . . . . .  | Died . . 1852    |
| 1832              | Colonel Mudge, R.E. . . . .   | Retired . . 1852 |
| 1834              | Robert Snow, Esq. . . . .   | Retired . . 1835 |
| "                 | Colonel Samuel Long . . . . .   | Retired . . 1839 |
| 1835              | Sir Ronald Ferguson . . . . .   | Retired . . 1837 |
| 1842              | James Sparrow, Esq. . . . .   | Retired . . 1844 |
| "                 | Henry Norman, Esq. . . . .  | Died . . 1867    |
| "                 | The Hon. W. Fraser . . . . .  | Retired . . 1844 |
| 1844              | John Wood, Esq. . . . .   | Retired . . 1850 |
| "                 | The Hon. Henry Liddell, afterwards Lord Ravensworth . . . . .         | Retired . . 1847 |
| 1845              | Colonel E. G. D. Pennant, afterwards Lord Penrhyn . . . . .           | Retired . . 1864 |
| 1846              | John Bonham Carter, Esq., M.P. . . . .                                | Retired . . 1867 |
| 1848              | The Viscount Gage . . . . .   | Retired . . 1855 |
| 1849              | The Right Hon. John Wilson Patten, Esq., M.P. . . . .                 | Retired . . 1851 |
| 1851              | The Hon. Ralph Dutton . . . . .                                       | Retired . . 1851 |
| 1852              | The Hon. Edwin Lascelles . . . . .                                    | Died . . 1865    |
| "                 | Martin Tucker Smith, Esq. . . . .                                     | Died . . 1880    |
| 1853              | William Frederick Beadon, Esq. . . . .                                | Died . . 1857    |
| 1854              | J. E. Blunt, Esq. . . . .   | Died . . 1856    |
| 1855              | Sir Thomas Sebright . . . . .   | Retired . . 1857 |
| "                 | Charles Corkran, Esq. . . . .   | Died . . 1885    |
| "                 | Sir Minto Farquhar . . . . .  | Retired . . 1856 |
| 1856              | Major-General Dixon . . . . .   | Died . . 1874    |
| 1857              | Robert Clutterbuck, Esq. . . . .                                      | Retired . . 1866 |
| "                 | Sir Henry James, R.E. . . . .   | Died . . 1875    |
| 1858              | The Earl of Uxbridge . . . . .  | Retired . . 1869 |
| "                 | The Earl of Aylesford . . . . .                                       | Died . . 1871    |
| 1859              | The Earl of Ducie . . . . .   | Retired . . 1899 |
| "                 | General Scott . . . . .   | Retired . . 1863 |
| 1860              | The Hon. D. G. Finch . . . . .  | Died . . 1882    |
| 1861              | James R. Wigram, Esq. . . . .   | Retired . . 1879 |
| 1862              | Colonel Loyd Lindsay, M.P., afterwards Lord Wantage . . . . .         | Retired . . 1866 |
| "                 | The Lord Penrhyn . . . . .  | Died . . 1907    |
| 1865              | Pery Standish, Esq. . . . .   | Retired . . 1876 |
| 1866              | Alfred Denison, Esq. . . . .  | Died . . 1887    |
| 1867              | Martin Ridley Smith, Esq. . . . .                                     | Retired . . 1904 |
| 1868              | J. Stewart Hodgson, Esq. . . . .                                      | Retired . . 1890 |
| "                 | Arthur Campbell, Esq. . . . .   | Retired . . 1872 |

| YEAR OF ELECTION | MEMBERS.  | REMARKS.                |
|------------------|---|-------------------------|
| 1869             | *General Godfrey Wigram, C.B., elected an Honorary Member . . . . . | Retired . . 1908        |
| 1871             | Herbert G. H. Norman, Esq. . . . .                                  | Died . . 1902           |
| 1877             | Captain Lawrence Trent Cave . . . . .                               | Retired . . 1881        |
| 1878             | Frederick H. Whymer, Esq. . . . .                                   | Retired . . 1883        |
| 1879             | *The Lord Moreton . . . . .   |                         |
| 1880             | Colonel Seymour Corkran . . . . .                                   | Retired . . 1903        |
| 1881             | Everard A. Hambro, Esq. . . . .                                     | Retired . . 1890        |
| 1884             | Sir Gerard Smith . . . . .  | Retired . . 1886        |
| 1885             | Sir John R. Gladstone, Bart. . . . .                                | Retired . . 1903        |
| 1886             | The Lord Hindlip . . . . .  | Retired . . 1895        |
| 1887             | The Hon. E. S. D. Pennant, M.P. . . . .                             | Retired . . 1899        |
| 1888             | *Rupert O. Smith, Esq. . . . .                                      |                         |
| 1891             | T. Farley Turner, Esq. . . . .                                      | Retired . . 1894        |
| "                | Nigel M. Smith, Esq. . . . .  | Retired . . 1894        |
| 1893             | The Marquis of Winchester . . . . .                                 | Killed in Action . 1899 |
| "                | *D. Meinertzhagen, Esq. . . . .                                     |                         |
| "                | *R. D. Balfour, Esq. . . . .  |                         |
| "                | Selwyn R. Pryor, Esq. . . . .                                       | Retired . . 1905        |
| 1895             | The Hon. E. Johnstone . . . . .                                     | Retired . . 1897        |
| "                | The Lord Henry Bentinck, M.P. . . . .                               | Retired . . 1895        |
| 1896             | Robert Wharton, Esq. . . . .  | Retired . . 1906        |
| "                | *Arthur N. Gibbey, Esq. . . . .                                     |                         |
| 1898             | F. W. Ramsden, Esq. . . . .   | Retired . . 1903        |
| 1900             | *Robert L. Newman, Esq. . . . .                                     |                         |
| "                | *Richard Combe, Esq. . . . .  |                         |
| "                | Arthur H. Young, Esq. . . . .                                       | Retired . . 1908        |
| 1903             | The Earl of Hardwicke . . . . .                                     | Died . . 1904           |
| 1904             | *R. P. Page, Esq. . . . .   |                         |
| "                | Arthur C. Hammersley, Esq. . . . .                                  | Retired . . 1907        |
| "                | Sir Basil Montgomery, Bart. . . . .                                 | Retired . . 1904        |
| 1905             | *Stephenson R. Clarke, Esq. . . . .                                 |                         |
| "                | *The Lord Lucas . . . . .   |                         |
| "                | *The Lord Aberdare . . . . .  | Retired . . 1908        |
| 1906             | *Sir John R. Gladstone, Bart. (re-elected) . . . . .                |                         |
| 1907             | *Richard Helme, Esq. . . . .  |                         |
| 1908             | *The Hon. Herbert Gibbs . . . . .                                   |                         |
| "                | *N. V. C. Dalrymple-Hamilton, Esq. . . . .                          |                         |
| "                | *Edward J. Power, Esq. . . . .                                      |                         |

The annals of the Club, having been kept with consistent regularity, though with varying amplitude of comment and detail, afford an interesting view of the changes which have affected social habits in general, and

the craft of fly-fishing in particular. It will be observed how gradual and imperceptible these changes have been. The rail superseded the road without eliciting any written observation by the members of the Club, who continued to repair to the river-side for the Grannom Meeting in April and the Mayfly Meeting towards the end of May without expressing any gratification at the superior speed with which they were able to accomplish the journey.

Yet the annals bear unconscious testimony to altered conditions of life and locomotion. In the leisurely old days of mail-coach and po'chaise, men arranged their affairs so as to come down to Stockbridge at fixed seasons, there to abide for better for worse during the time when they were accustomed to have the best sport. They could not, in the 'twenties and 'thirties, wait for a wire to tell them that the fly was up, nor could they easily, if they found on arriving that conditions were unfavourable, rush back to London for two or three days until matters took a turn for the better. They had to make the best of things on the spot, with the result that the early journals of the Club reflect an atmosphere of conviviality, of raillery, always good-humoured, and often witty, and of literary or artistic diversion, whereof the records of later years are wholly devoid. It is not suggested that there exists now among the members less cordiality and good-fellowship than of yore, but it does not find expression in the annals, which have become mere business-like records of weather, sport, and management. Few fishermen, in this era of motors and marconigrams, could find the leisure, even if they had at command the erudition, to fill a folio with Latin elegiacs so fluent as those on page 96. Or, if they did, could they be sure of an appreciative audience? Even in our own tongue there occurs nothing in the later annals of the Houghton Club, which contained several bards in the 'forties and 'fifties, to dispel the impression that now *caret vates sacer*.

Embellishment of another kind also has fallen into disuse. The pencils of Chantrey, Edwin Landseer, J. M. W. Turner, Frank Grant, and others were freely employed to enrich the chronicle of sport. It cannot be that the graphic faculty has failed among fishermen, nor has the gentle craft lost favour with artists! No: the fault is with the photographers; the ruthless fidelity of the kodak—the ignoble facility of the snapshot—have sterilised the sketch-book and paralysed the palette in this age when everybody has just caught, is busy catching, or is about to catch, a train.



## 6 THE HOUGHTON FISHING CLUB [1822-

All the more refreshing it is to dwell on matters which have undergone no change. The record (would that it were less fragmentary in this respect) preserved in these volumes of the arrival of spring migrants, the flowering of trees and herbs, the metamorphosis of water-breathing larvæ into air-breathing insects, constituting the "rise" of fly so vitally important to the angler—that record, I say, shows a constancy of natural phenomena in striking contrast to fleeting human fashion.

In one other respect it is consoling to note the absence of change. While we in the feverish north have to deplore the hopeless pollution of many a fair river by the waste products of industry, the Naiads of Test still lave their limbs in lucid streams. The sources of Laverstock and Wherwell flow as pure, the reaches of Houghton and Broadlands spread as clear over the waving weeds, as they did when Edward the Elder, son of the Great Alfred, chose Romsey Mead for the site of his beautiful Benedictine nunnery. In this is much matter for thankfulness, for sure it is that, while there is no more delectable or wholesome thing in nature than a teeming river, there is none more unlovely and depressing than one turned into a mere vehicle of filth.

The diary of Colonel Peter Hawker, 1802-53, contains several references to the Stockbridge fishing, not complimentary, it must be owned, but perhaps the colonel was prejudiced in favour of his own fishing at Long parish, where the trout were more numerous but smaller. Thus, on 18th June, 1816, he notes: "Went over to fish at Stockbridge, but so innumerable was the Mayfly that our sport was wretched, I killed only one large trout; we could never get a rise or a run all day." Again, on 31st July: "Went over to Stockbridge. Found the fly-fishing (as it almost always is at this celebrated, though infamously bad, place) not worth a penny. The cockney-like amusement of bobbing with a live Mayfly is all that this miserable river does for; indeed, scarcely a fish ever moves till about the last quarter of an hour that you can see to throw a line." Once more, in the following year, on 11th June: "Went over to Stockbridge, where, after two days' fishing, I caught but four brace of trout; and so execrable is the fishing there, that this was literally called good sport. The fish are immensely large, but so flabby and soft as to be scarcely worth eating. We worked the real Mayfly as well as the artificial."

I have spoken of the changes traceable through these journals as gradual and imperceptible. The diarists betray no consciousness of the passing of the old into the new. This is especially remarkable in things



connected with their own craft. Considering the complete revolution which has taken place in chalk-stream fishing since Canon Beadon and Edward Barnard first took up their quarters at Stockbridge, one would have expected at least passing reference to such an event as the first use of the dry fly. The old manner was twofold—either to fish down-stream with two flies of a bulk and build that would send every sane twentieth-century trout within sight to the nearest shelter, or to impale a natural fly—grannom, Mayfly, or caperer<sup>1</sup>—on the hook and to present it by “blowing”—that is, to let it float before the wind at the end of a line of floss silk and alight in as natural a way as possible on the water. To do so, of course, required a favouring wind, neither too much nor too little; such a breeze as an Ayrshire minister is said to have impetrated of his Maker during a wet harvest—“Send us, O Lord, we beseech Thee, a fine wind: not a ratterin'-tatterin', tearin' wind, but a huddery-duddery, dryin' wind.”

The invention of floating flies rendered the trout-fisher, if not independent of wind, far less dependent on it, and wholly indifferent to calm. Yet there is no mention in the journals of the introduction at Houghton of what must have appeared a startling novelty at the time. Thus, in 1852, Mr. Bonham Carter, baffled by bright, calm weather, breaks into this doleful jingle—

Bright sky,  
Wind high,  
Or not a sigh;  
No fly,  
Fish shy,  
So to try  
Is all my eye.<sup>2</sup>

There remains to be noticed an important change in the character of the sport which, be it permanent or temporary, has altered the proceedings of the Club in a marked degree. In former days, as referred to above,

<sup>1</sup> “Caperer” is a term used to denote various kinds of caddis-fly (*Phryganea*), of which 800 species have been enumerated, about 200 being natives of the British Isles.—Ed.

<sup>2</sup> The late Mr. Bidder, Q.C., vented his despair in better verses which he inscribed in the visitors' book of a certain hotel:—

“Sometimes too early and sometimes too late,  
Sometimes too little and sometimes in spate;  
Sometimes too windy and sometimes too calm,  
Sometimes too frosty and sometimes too warm;  
Sometimes too drumlie and sometimes too clear,  
There's aye *something* wanting when I'm fishing here!”

## 8 THE HOUGHTON FISHING CLUB [1822-

the fishing was mainly dependent upon two events—the rise of the grannom in April and that of the Mayfly towards the end of May, and it was to celebrate these two feasts that the regular meetings of the members were held. In recent seasons there has been a great scarcity of grannom, and the Mayfly has appeared only in negligible quantity. This has been attributed to many causes—cold springtides, for instance—yet the Club journals in years when there was plenty of Mayfly abound in bitter complaints about vernal inclemency. The increase of wild birds in consequence of protective legislation has been cited as interfering with the Mayfly at the critical period of reproduction; but it is improbable that swifts, swallows, martins, chaffinches, wagtails, &c., are more numerous now than they were fifty years ago; indeed one often hears special lamentation over the recent scarcity of *Hirundines*. A third cause operating as a check upon the fecundity of Ephemerids has been suggested in the larger stock of fish which the river is called upon to support through the agency of artificial propagation of trout. Undoubtedly the ephemerid population must be taxed more heavily as the number of their enemies is increased; but it must be borne in mind when endeavouring to forecast the future of the Houghton water in respect of Mayfly that, although trout are far more numerous than of yore, grayling and coarse fish, quite as inimical as trout to the fly in all its stages, have greatly diminished in number.

It is a marked characteristic of certain creatures—vertebrate as well as invertebrate—to pullulate in abnormal numbers at irregular intervals on the stimulus of some favourable concatenation of physical conditions whereof the nature has hitherto evaded recognition. Examples of this may be seen in the familiar phenomena of vast hordes of lemmings in Scandinavia, of voles—a kindred rodent—in this and other countries, and of various destructive insects in many parts of the world. In Britain we are well acquainted with the fluctuation in the autumnal appearance of wasps. In some seasons they abound in all our quarters; in others, only a few scattered individuals can be seen; nor has it been possible to trace any apparent connection between their abundance in August and the number of queen-wasps to be seen in spring, or any particular meteorological conditions in the intervening months.

I venture to suggest that both grannom and Mayfly may be subject to some physical agency, hitherto undetected, affecting their productivity. Thus it will be seen in the Club records how the total absence of grannom is noted in the year 1853, but in 1879 and for several subsequent years



SIR FRANCIS CHANTREY "BLOWING."  
*By George Jones, R.A.*

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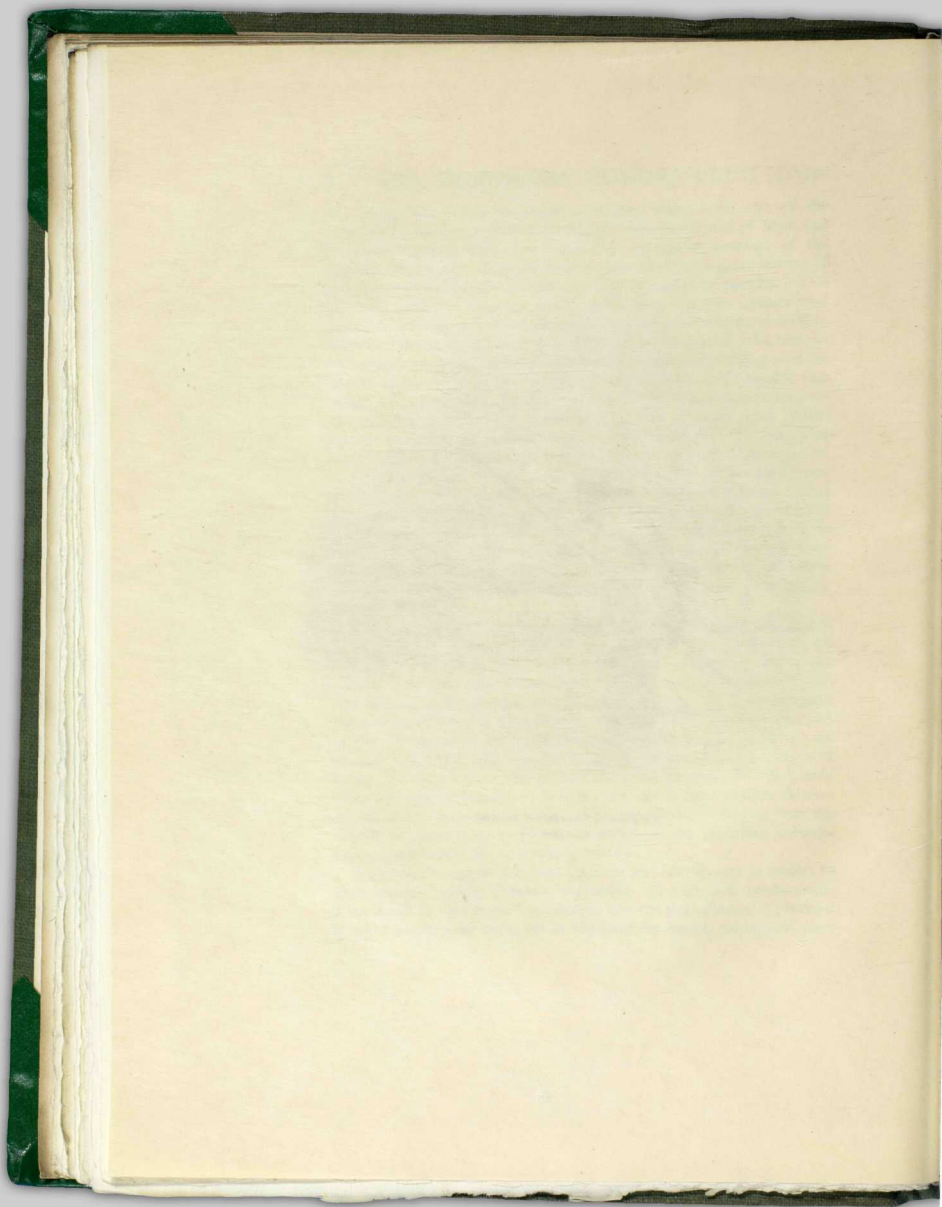
1847 THE INDIAN FISHING BOAT

The Indian fishing boat is a small, narrow, and shallow vessel, built of bark or hide, and is used by the Indians of the Pacific Northwest for fishing. It is propelled by a single paddle, and is capable of carrying a large quantity of fish. The boat is usually used by a single person, and is often seen in the bays and rivers of the coast.



SIR FRANCIS CHANTREY "BLOWING."  
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the rise of this valuable fly is described as "a perfect glut," "wonderful," "extraordinary," "incredible," &c. So with the Mayfly, in the same year 1853 it is noted on 11th June that "the fly is quite over, if that can be said to be over which never appeared at all. In many parts of the water no fly was to be seen at all," and similar reports came from the Hampshire Avon. It was equally scarce in 1856 and 1858, but it reappeared in the 'seventies, and in 1890 we read on 25th May that "Mayfly were more abundant this season than Lunn remembers ever to have seen." There appears, therefore, no valid reason to doubt that what has happened before will happen again, and that the Houghton water some day will produce its dancing swarms as of yore. Opinions, however, unanimously in favour of the grannom, will differ as to the desirability of the Mayfly, for while it affords a valuable supply of food for trout, and although the sport is very exciting while it lasts owing to the number of heavy fish which the rise brings to the surface, the reaction from the surfeit makes summer angling rather disappointing, and many good anglers would gladly dispense with the Mayfly altogether, and rely upon small flies the season through.

To any one inclined to investigate the agencies regulating the appearance and disappearance of the Mayfly in certain rivers, it may be suggested that such agencies are most likely to take effect during the brief period of reproduction. If that be so, it follows that the physical causes determining the quantity in any given season must be looked for, not in the year when the perfect fly is due to appear, but in the conditions which prevailed two or three years before, corresponding to the period of the insect's larval existence in the mud.

It will be noticed that, just as the views of trout-fishers in general have varied from time to time on the merits of grayling, so do members of the Houghton Club differ among themselves upon the advantage of having this beautiful fish in a trout stream. Thus, on 4th May 1852, Mr. R. Penn, in recording his capture of two grayling weighing 4 lb. 2 oz., adds the note, "These vermin have much injured the fishing." His entries on the following days are—

|                           |           |              |
|---------------------------|-----------|--------------|
| 5th May.—Beastly grayling | . . . . . | 2 lb. 10 oz. |
| Do. do.                   | . . . . . | 2 „ 4 „      |
| Trout                     | . . . . . | 1 „ 10 „     |
|                           |           | <hr/>        |
|                           |           | 6½ lb.       |

## 10 THE HOUGHTON FISHING CLUB [1822-

|  |             |
|--|-------------|
| <i>6th May</i> .—Horrid grayling . . . . . | 3 lb.       |
| Filthy do. . . . .                         | 1½ "        |
| Goodly trout . . . . .                     | 2½ "        |
|  | <hr/> 7 lb. |

On the other hand, at the close of the season 1861, Mr. Henry Norman, Secretary to the Club, deploras the diminution of grayling, which he esteems "one of the Club's most enviable possessions," and urges that efforts be made to restore their former abundance. So late as 1873 thirty-five large grayling were brought from the Itchen and turned into the Club water above the town.

At present, the general opinion of anglers is adverse to grayling, as being inimical to trout, both by devouring their ova and consuming too much of the legitimate food supply. The records of the Houghton Club do not confirm this suspicion. The largest number of grayling killed in a single season was 198 in 1848; they averaged 1 lb. 11 oz. in weight. In the same season there were killed 179 trout of an average weight of 1 lb. 13 oz. The smallest number of grayling recorded was in 1877, when only one was killed, weighing 2 lb. 6 oz. In the same season 99 trout were taken, averaging 1 lb. 14½ oz. But in 1877 the Club had lost the Houghton Water, which it did not regain till 1893. For fair comparison with 1848, therefore, we must take the season 1904, when only four grayling were killed against 198 in the former year. The trout numbered 235, of an average weight of 2 lb., which appears to bear out the doctrine that they had benefited by the diminution of grayling; but here again there is a disturbing factor in the enormous number of trout which the Club has been turning into its waters during a long succession of years.<sup>1</sup>

If grayling came into prime condition simultaneously with trout, there would probably be a unanimous opinion in their favour, for there is no more delicately beautiful fish at its proper season. Unluckily, when trout are at their best, grayling are at their worst—spawning, or just recovering from spawning, slimy and unsightly—wherefore it is to be feared that those who prize fly-fishing chiefly in "the sweet o' the year" will never be reconciled to the presence of a fish which has to be sought in his prime in chill October or gloomy November. There I must leave

<sup>1</sup> In 1897 a rule was passed raising the *minimum* weight of fish to be killed from 1 lb. to 1½ lb. This, of course, vitiates all comparison between both numbers taken and average weight before and after that year.



THE CASTING NET.  
*By F. R. L. & Co. R.A.*



## 10 THE HOUGHTON FISHING CLUB [1822-

|                          |       |
|--------------------------|-------|
| 6th May.—Horrid grayling | 1 lb. |
| Filthy do.               | 1 lb. |
| Goodly trout             | 1 lb. |

On the other hand, at the close of the season when Mr. Henry Norman, Secretary to the Club, deposes the distribution of grayling, which he esteems "one of the Club's most enviable possessions," and urges that efforts be made to restore their former abundance. He tells us 1853 thirty-five large grayling were brought from the lichen and turned into the Club water above the town.

At present, the general opinion of anglers is adverse to grayling, as being inimical to trout, both by devouring their ova and consuming too much of the legitimate food supply. The records of the Houghton Club do not confirm this suspicion. The largest number of grayling killed in a single season was 198 in 1848; they averaged 1 lb. 11 oz. in weight. In the same season there were killed 199 trout of an average weight of 1 lb. 13 oz. The smallest number of grayling recorded was in 1877, when only one was killed, weighing 4 lb. 10 oz. In the same season 99 trout were taken, averaging 1 lb. 14½ oz. In 1878 the Club had lost the Houghton Water, which it did not regain till 1885. For fair comparison with 1848, therefore, we must take the season 1904, when only four grayling were killed against 121 in the former year. The trout numbered 235, of an average weight of 1 lb. 10 oz. which appears to bear out the doctrine that they had benefited by the introduction of grayling; but here again there is a disturbing factor in the enormous number of trout which the Club has been turning into its waters during a long succession of years.<sup>1</sup>

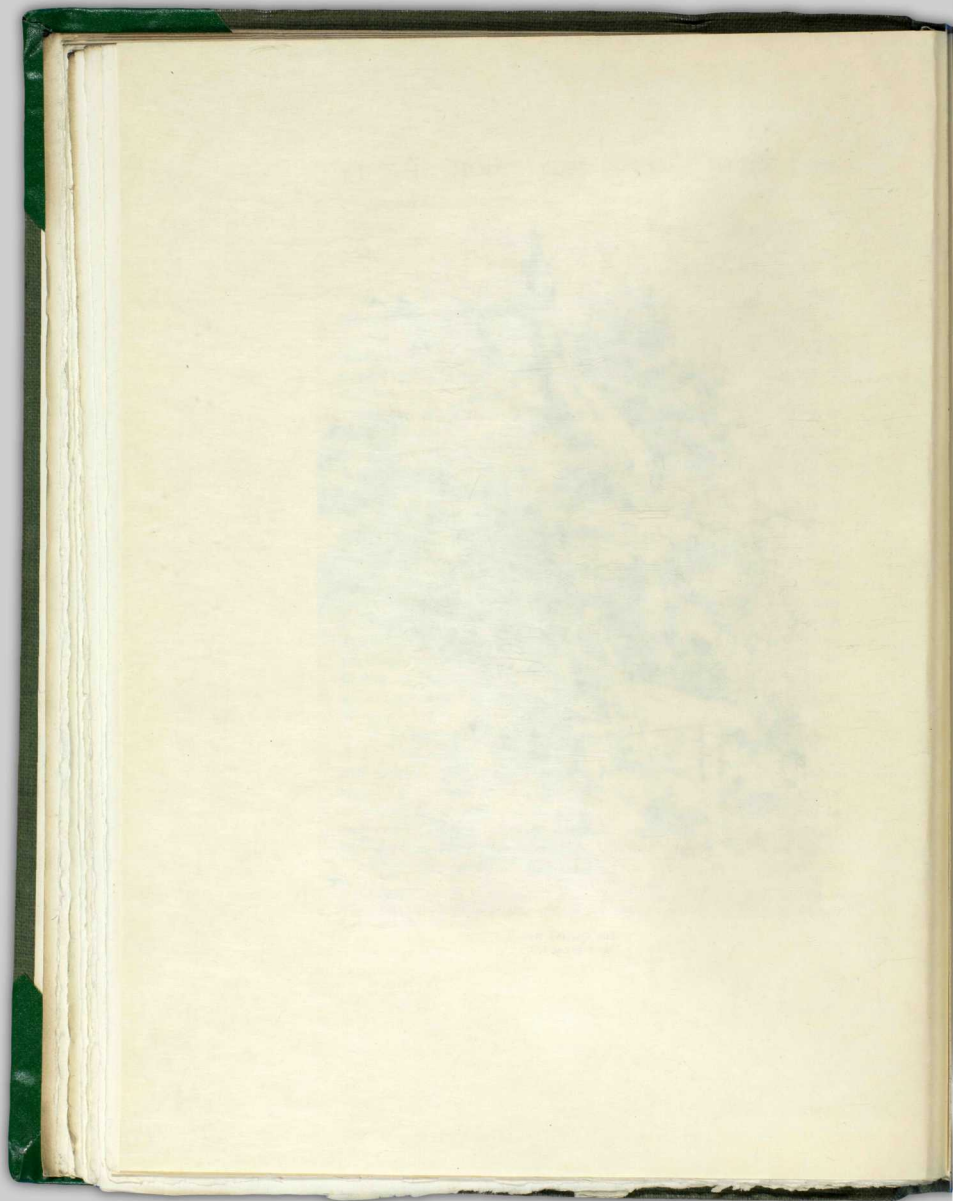
If grayling came into prime condition simultaneously with trout, there would probably be a unanimous nod to their favour, for there is no more delicately beautiful fish at its proper season. Unluckily, when trout are at their best, grayling are at their worst—spawning, or just recovering from spawning, slimy and unsightly—wherefore it is to be feared that those who prize fly-fishing chiefly in "the sweet o' the year" will never be reconciled to the presence of a fish which has to be sought in his prime in chill October or gloomy November. There I must leave

<sup>1</sup> In 1899 a rule was passed raising the minimum weight of fish to be killed from 1 lb. to 1½ lb. This, of course, vitiates all comparison between both numbers taken and average weight before and after that year.



THE CASTING NET.  
*By F. R. Lee, R.A.*





the question, content to draw the attention of anglers to the absence of direct evidence in these annals to any ill effects upon trout-fishing arising from the presence of grayling.

In 1874 a mighty calamity overtook the Houghton Club. More than half a century of occupation had given the members a sense of proprietorship, which they had done much to earn by lavish expenditure of labour and capital upon the fishery, by re-stocking the water, maintaining the banks and improving the channel. But that half century had brought about many changes. Not only had the railway brought Stockbridge within easy reach of the metropolis, but the metropolis contained fifty eager anglers for every one that existed in the reign of George IV. Thus it came to pass that, the manorial rights of Houghton having been purchased by a new proprietor, and the Club Committee having failed to come to terms with him about a renewal of the lease, all that fine water from the Machine Barn, about half a mile below Stockbridge, down to Bossington, nearly three miles in all, was let to a society of twenty gentlemen, who adopted the title of the Houghton Fly-fishing Club. The old Houghton Club, thus shorn of the ancient territory whence it derived its name, retained its headquarters at the Grosvenor Arms, Stockbridge, and became known as the Stockbridge Fishing Club.

So matters continued until 1883, by which time some important stretches of water had been purchased as opportunity offered, by individual members, and were held by them solely for the benefit of the Club. It was obvious that great inconvenience might arise in the event of the resignation or death of these members, and that the very existence of the Club might be imperilled. It was resolved, therefore, to form a small company, limited, which should purchase and hold any land or fishing rights which it might be for the interest of the Club to acquire, and that the fishing rights thus acquired should be leased to the Club at such rent as should return 4 per cent. on the capital invested. This was done accordingly, the Stockbridge Fishery Association, Limited, being formed in January 1883, with a nominal capital of £20,000. The original directors were Messrs. Martin R. Smith, Herbert Norman, Alfred Denison, J. Stewart Hodgson, and the Earl of Ducie.

This arrangement worked admirably from the first, and in 1893 the Association effected its crowning achievement by regaining, through purchase, possession of the Houghton Water which had been lost in 1874. The invested capital amounts to £18,900, the interest on which at 4 per

## 12 THE HOUGHTON FISHING CLUB 1891

cent., with auditor's fee of £1, 1s., amounting to £757, 1s., represents the rent paid by the Club to the Association for the fishing rights.

The advance which has taken place in the value of trout-fishing is well illustrated by the progressive increase in the subscription paid by members of the Club. The twelve original members in 1822 appear to have paid an annual subscription of £10. In 1824 an entrance fee of £5 was imposed upon the election of every new member, and this was raised to £10 in 1827, the number of members being increased at the same time to thirteen.

In 1835 there were sixteen members, the annual subscription being raised to £15, and again in 1836 to £20. In 1839 the subscription was reduced to £18, in 1840 to £17, returning in 1841 to £20, at which figure it remained until 1864, when it was raised to £22. In 1877 the subscription paid by sixteen members was £30 each, but on the formation of the Stockbridge Association, Limited, in 1883 the subscription was increased to £40, in 1887 to £45, and in 1893, on the resumption of the Houghton Water, to £60.

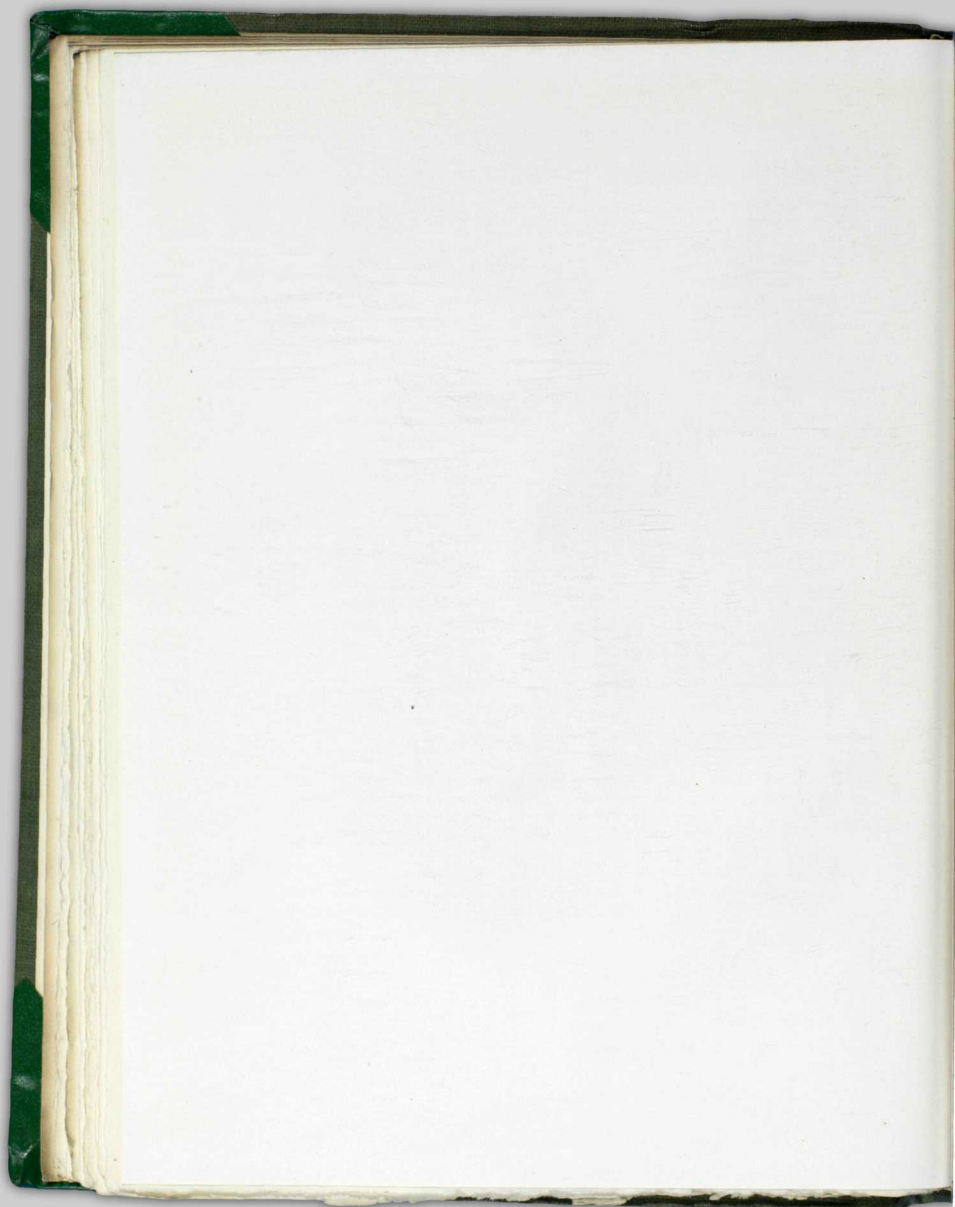
Having thus given an outline of the genesis and career of the Houghton Club, I will leave the members to fill in some of the details from the actual manuscript, of which I have endeavoured to preserve the essence in the following pages. To print the journal *in extenso* would fill many volumes, and would involve the repetition of ephemeral details, such as conditions of weather, water, and weed-cutting. The extracts most likely to be of permanent interest will be found arranged under each year, with the letters, papers, quips, cranks, and drawings most worthy of preservation. Besides these, a quantity of miscellaneous matter, scattered over a wilderness of manuscript, has been collected and presented in tabular form.

The dining-room at the Grosvenor Arms, Stockbridge, so long the headquarters of this venerable Club, presents many memorials of bygone years and departed members. There are some grand specimens of trout in cases on the wall. The tent, to which so many references appear in the journals, is still pitched annually during what ought to be the Mayfly season in a meadow about three miles below the town, and dinner is served there every evening at 6 P.M., so that all may be ready for the evening fishing. The members of the Club have spared no pains to develop the full resources of their fishery, and must be congratulated upon having realised the ideal of a perfect trout stream.



*Nowing*  
*Fall of Hope & Confidence* 1896

EDWARD BARNARD.  
By Sir Francis Grant, F.R.A.





EXTRACTS FROM THE JOURNALS OF  
THE HOUGHTON FISHING CLUB

1822-1908

1822-1823

The Houghton Club was established in June 1822, and consisted of the following members:—

EDWARD BARNARD, Esq.  
WILLIAM BECKFORD, Esq.  
REV. HENRY DAMPIER.  
HENRY WARBURTON, Esq.  
RICHARD PENN, Esq.  
REV. WILLIAM GARRETT.  
SIR JAMES GARDINER, Bart.  
CHARLES TAYLOR, Esq., M.P.  
SIR CHARLES BLOIS, Bart.  
F. POPHAM, Esq.  
FRANCIS L. BECKFORD, Esq., Junr.  
Colonel WALHOUSE.

The season was so unfavourable, owing to the north-easterly wind and the brightness of the weather, that scarcely any fish were taken.

In the year 1823 it was agreed to have a spring meeting, which took place on the 14th of April, when Sir Charles Blois, Mr. Dampier, Mr. Garrett, and Mr. Barnard were present. Mr. Hyde Parker was introduced as the friend of Mr. Garrett, and Mr. Beadon by Mr. Barnard. The weather was unfavourable owing to the prevalence of cold, north-easterly wind; but a few trout and grayling were caught between the 14th and the 19th, when the party separated. No account of the fish was kept.

On the 2nd of June, the first appearance of the Mayfly, the club met again, when fish were taken as in the annexed list. . . . Charles

# 14 THE HOUGHTON FISHING CLUB [1822-

SUMMARY OF FISH TAKEN FROM JUNE 2ND TO 10TH.<sup>1</sup>

| June.                     | 2nd.                                  | 3rd.                                  | 4th.                                  | 5th.                                  | 6th.                                  | 7th.                                  | 9th.                                  | 10th.                                 | Total No. and Weight.                   |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| Sir Charles Blois . . . { | 7 trout<br>12 lb. 7 oz.               | 1 trout<br>1 lb. 13 oz.               | 3 trout<br>4 lb.                      | 3 trout<br>1 grayling<br>5 lb. 12 oz. | ...                                   | 4 trout<br>1 grayling<br>5 lb. 5 oz.  | 1 trout<br>1 grayling<br>2 lb.        | ...                                   | 19 trout<br>3 grayling<br>31 lb. 5 oz.  |
| Mr. Barnard . . . {       | 3 trout<br>3 grayling<br>8 lb. 12 oz. | 5 trout<br>8 lb. 1 oz.                | 6 trout<br>2 grayling<br>10 lb. 4 oz. | 4 trout<br>6 lb. 7 oz.                | 1 trout<br>1 grayling<br>3 lb. 11 oz. | 7 trout<br>1 grayling<br>12 lb. 1 oz. | 2 trout<br>1 grayling<br>3 lb. 11 oz. | ...                                   | 28 trout<br>8 grayling<br>52 lb. 15 oz. |
| Mr. Dampier . . . {       | 4 trout<br>1 grayling<br>7 lb.        | 1 trout<br>2 grayling<br>4 lb. 3 oz.  | 4 trout<br>3 grayling<br>10 lb. 3 oz. | 1 trout<br>1 grayling<br>2 lb. 6 oz.  | ...                                   | 6 trout<br>1 grayling<br>9 lb. 3 oz.  | 1 trout<br>1 lb. 2 oz.                | ...                                   | 17 trout<br>8 grayling<br>33 lb. 1 oz.  |
| Mr. W. Beckford . . . {   | ...                                   | 7 trout<br>7 lb. 14 oz.               | ...                                   | 2 trout<br>1 grayling<br>3 lb. 10 oz. | 1 trout<br>1 grayling<br>2 lb. 4 oz.  | 7 trout<br>3 oz.                      | 5 trout<br>6 lb. 7 oz.                | ...                                   | 22 trout<br>2 grayling<br>29 lb. 6 oz.  |
| Mr. Popham . . . {        | ...                                   | 3 trout<br>2 grayling<br>7 lb. 11 oz. | ...                                   | 4 trout<br>5 lb. 7 oz.                | 4 trout<br>6 lb.                      | 4 trout<br>2 grayling<br>7 lb. 5 oz.  | 1 trout<br>1 grayling<br>3 lb. 15 oz. | 1 trout<br>1 lb. 13 oz.               | 17 trout<br>5 grayling<br>32 lb. 3 oz.  |
| Mr. Garrett . . . {       | ...                                   | ...                                   | ...                                   | ...                                   | ...                                   | 1 trout<br>1 lb.                      | ...                                   | ...                                   | 1 trout<br>1 lb.                        |
| Rev. Charles Beckford {   | ...                                   | ...                                   | ...                                   | ...                                   | 3 grayling<br>3 lb.                   | 3 trout<br>3 lb. 7 oz.                | ...                                   | ...                                   | 3 trout<br>3 grayling<br>6 lb. 7 oz.    |
| Mr. Warburton . . . {     | ...                                   | ...                                   | ...                                   | ...                                   | ...                                   | ...                                   | 3 trout<br>2 grayling<br>6 lb. 14 oz. | 1 trout<br>2 grayling<br>3 lb. 11 oz. | 4 trout<br>4 grayling<br>10 lb. 9 oz.   |
| Mr. F. Beckford . . . {   | ...                                   | ...                                   | ...                                   | ...                                   | ...                                   | ...                                   | ...                                   | 1 trout<br>1 lb. 14 oz.               | 1 trout<br>1 lb. 14 oz.                 |

The heaviest fish taken during these days was a trout of 3 lb. on 2nd June by Sir C. Blois.  
<sup>1</sup> As the list is given in a very much extended form, recording the weight of every fish, the above summary may serve as the earliest chronicle of doings by the Houghton Club.

Taylor, Esq., withdrew from the Club, and the Rev. Charles Beckford was unanimously elected by ballot to supply the vacancy. Previous to the separation of the members, the following rules were drawn up and adopted as the established regulations of the Club:—

#### REGULATIONS OF THE HOUGHTON CLUB

1. New Members (having been proposed as Candidates at least two months previous to an Election) to be chosen by ballot, not less than five Members being present at such Election. One Blackball to exclude. A letter from an absent Member to have the same power as a Blackball, due notice of an Election having been previously given.

2. A Committee of Management to be chosen annually the first week in June, and to consist of three Members; such Committee having power to transact all the ordinary business of the Club.

3. All Subscriptions to be paid by the 10th of June. Any Member not having paid by that time, to be immediately applied to, and, if not abroad, to be considered as no longer belonging to the Club unless his Subscription be paid by the 1st of July.

4. No Friend of any Member to fish, unless the Member by whom he is introduced is present.

5. No Member to introduce any Friend from the 15th of May till the 15th of June.

6. Five shillings forfeit for any trout killed under one pound weight: to be paid at the time.

7. No Fees nor Presents to be given by any Member to any Keeper on any pretence whatever.

8. Every Member to give an account of each day's sport of himself and Friend; stating the date, number and weight of Fish, to be entered in a Book kept for that purpose, or pay forfeit of five shillings.

9. Any presents of Fish to persons connected with the Fishery to be borne equally by Members present; it being understood that any Subscriber who shall be present, and who shall not have contributed during the season, shall be first called upon for that purpose.

10. Any new Member to pay five pounds entrance on his Election, in addition to the Annual Subscription, which Subscription shall be considered as commencing from the date of his Election.

# 16 THE HOUGHTON FISHING CLUB [1824-

11. Any Member not signifying his intention of withdrawing his name from the Club on or before the 1st of January, to be called upon for his Subscription for the ensuing season.

|          |                          |                   |
|----------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| (Signed) | FRANK L. BECKFORD, Junr. | EDWARD BARNARD.   |
|          | CHARLES BLOIS.           | HENRY WARBURTON.  |
|          | WILLIAM BECKFORD.        | JOHN WALHOUSE.    |
|          | WILLIAM GEORGE GARRETT.  | HENRY T. DAMPIER. |
|          | FRANCIS POPHAM.          | RICHD. PENN.      |

In consequence of Mr. Taylor's retirement, Mr. Charles Beckford was elected.

## TOTAL FOR 1823

|                       | lb. | oz.    |                            | lb. | oz. |
|-----------------------|-----|--------|----------------------------|-----|-----|
| Sir C. Blois . . .    | 31  | 5      | Mr. Warburton . . .        | 10  | 9   |
| Mr. Dampier . . .     | 34  | 1      | Mr. Charles Beckford . . . | 6   | 11  |
| Mr. Popham . . .      | 32  | 3      | Mr. F. Beckford . . .      | 1   | 14  |
| Mr. W. Beckford . . . | 53  | 9      | Mr. Garrett . . .          | 1   | 0   |
|                       | 200 | 10 oz. |                            |     |     |

In October, Mr. Warburton and Sir H. Davy killed eight brace of grayling; but the exact weight was not taken. None of them exceeded two pounds.

## 1824

In this year there was a meeting in April, but it was thinly attended, and no account of fish kept. Wind, north-east.

## TOTAL OF FISH CAUGHT IN 1824

|                     | lb. | oz. |                          | lb. | oz.       |
|---------------------|-----|-----|--------------------------|-----|-----------|
| Mr. Popham . . .    | 31  | 9   | Mr. Penn . . .           | 4   | 4         |
| Mr. Warburton . . . | 36  | 4   | Mr. Garrett . . .        | 5   | 10        |
| Mr. Barnard . . .   | 46  | 11  | Mr. W. Beckford . . .    | 11  | 0         |
| Mr. Dampier . . .   | 13  | 7   | Mr. C. Beckford . . .    | 3   | 10        |
|                     |     |     | 20 grayling, 131 trout = | 152 | lb. 7 oz. |



1825

## WEIGHT OF FISH CAUGHT BY EACH MEMBER DURING THE SEASON

|                       | lb. | oz. |                      | lb. | oz. |
|-----------------------|-----|-----|----------------------|-----|-----|
| F. Chantrey . . . .   | 9   | 7   | W. Garrett . . . .   | 50  | 2   |
| R. Penn . . . .       | 19  | 1   | H. Warburton . . . . | 54  | 6   |
| Dr. Wollaston . . . . | 27  | 3   | F. Popham . . . .    | 54  | 14  |
| C. Beckford . . . .   | 39  | 14  | W. Beckford . . . .  | 59  | 2   |
| H. Dampier . . . .    | 33  | 6   | E. Barnard . . . .   | 154 | 15  |

## Visitors

|                          | lb. | oz. |
|--------------------------|-----|-----|
| F. Beadon . . . .        | 4   | 9   |
| Sir Humphry Davy . . . . | 6   | 14  |
| H. Parker . . . .        | 21  | 9   |

|                     | lb.        | oz.      |
|---------------------|------------|----------|
| Total—Trout . . . . | 348        | 1        |
| Grayling . . . .    | 187        | 5        |
|                     | <u>535</u> | <u>6</u> |

From SIR HUMPHRY DAVY (author of "*Salmonia*") to

EDWARD BARNARD.

26 PARK STREET, Oct. 7, 1825.

DEAR SIR,—Having been only a day or two in town, I know not whether you are in London or not. When I last saw you, you talked of an expedition to Stockbridge in Oct. If you, or any of the Club that I know go, I shall be glad to meet you there, if you will allow me about to middle or end of next week. . . .—I am, Dear Sir, very sincerely yours,

H. DAVY.

As I do not in the least care for the Drake season, and have more spring and trout fishing than I can well go through, I should like to be admitted as an extra or Grayling fisher in your Club.

[Sir Humphry did not live to fulfil his wish. Struck by apoplexy in 1826, when he was only forty-seven years old, he made two journeys afterwards to the Continent in hopes of recovering health, but died at Geneva on 29th May 1829.—ED.]



# 18 THE HOUGHTON FISHING CLUB [1826-

1826

## WEIGHT OF FISH CAUGHT BY EACH MEMBER DURING 1826

|                            | lb. | oz. |                    | lb. | oz. |
|----------------------------|-----|-----|--------------------|-----|-----|
| Mr. Dampier . . .          | 57  | 10  | Mr. Popham . . .   | 60  | 1   |
| Mr. Penn . . .             | 41  | 10  | Mr. Chantrey . . . | 39  | 6   |
| Mr. Warburton . . .        | 23  | 6   | Mr. Barnard . . .  | 121 | 7   |
| Dr. Wollaston . . .        | 44  | 14  | Mr. Garrett . . .  | 20  | 5   |
| The Dean of Carlisle . . . | 5   | 0   | Mr. Stanley . . .  | 1   | 5   |

## Visitors

|                        | lb. | oz. |
|------------------------|-----|-----|
| Mr. John Jarrett . . . | 17  | 7   |
| Mr. H. Barnard . . .   | 8   | 6   |
| Mr. Gooch . . .        | 7   | 6   |

|                          | lb. | oz. |
|--------------------------|-----|-----|
| Total Weight—Trout . . . | 223 | 11  |
| Grayling . . .           | 224 | 8   |
|                          | 448 | 3   |

1827

At a General Meeting of the Club it was resolved to add one to the number of the Club, and Mr. John Story Penleaze of Bossington was unanimously elected as the New Member.

And it was resolved that the Entrance Money of £5 for admission of any New Member shall be increased to the sum of £10 on the Election in addition to their Annual Subscription.

1st June.—Mr. Barnard killed 17 trout, weighing 28½ lb.<sup>1</sup>

## WEIGHT OF FISH CAUGHT BY EACH MEMBER IN 1827

|                            | lb. | oz. |                     | lb. | oz. |
|----------------------------|-----|-----|---------------------|-----|-----|
| Mr. Popham . . .           | 59  | 12  | Mr. Chantrey . . .  | 25  | 9   |
| Mr. Dampier . . .          | 65  | 10  | Dr. Wollaston . . . | 36  | 3   |
| Mr. Warburton . . .        | 9   | 11  | Mr. Penn . . .      | 31  | 5   |
| Mr. Garrett . . .          | 23  | 8   | Mr. Barnard . . .   | 153 | 13  |
| The Dean of Carlisle . . . | 39  | 5   | Mr. Stanley . . .   | 2   | 1   |

<sup>1</sup> It is to be understood that the details of every day's fishing is recorded in the journals, and that where, as in this instance, the bag of an individual is mentioned, I have done so as an example of a good day.—ED.

*Visitors*

|                     | lb. | oz. |                       | lb. | oz. |
|---------------------|-----|-----|-----------------------|-----|-----|
| Mr. Snow . . . .    | 3   | 10  | Mr. Durnford . . . .  | 1   | 3   |
| Sir C. Rich . . . . | 4   | 3   | Mr. Stokes . . . .    | 1   | 3   |
| Capt. Yorke . . . . | 3   | 1   | Mr. J. Pearse . . . . | 2   | 13  |

|                            | lb.        | oz.       |
|----------------------------|------------|-----------|
| Total Weight—Trout . . . . | 351        | 0         |
| Grayling . . . .           | 113        | 14        |
|                            | <u>464</u> | <u>14</u> |

*Stockbridge, 16th July 1827.*—The Houghton Fishing Club has now been established five years, and although the Book hitherto kept for registering the names of the Members, the Regulations of the Club, and the number and weight of Fish killed by each Individual is still continued, yet it is conceived that another volume may be added, not inappropriately, to our Piscatorial Records, for those voluntary contributions which either the Pen or Pencil of our Members and Friends may enable them to add to our general stock.

All Honest Anglers, then, are requested to place on the following pages a Memento of their presence as often as Meetings may occur. No excuse can be admitted from either Member or Visitor of inability to add his Mite; for the signature of Names alone will hereafter recall the lively recollection of happy hours. Observations on seasons—on the increase or decrease of Fish—on the prevalence of Winds from various points, and the sport during such Winds—on the Natural History of Fish, and of the Insects on which they feed—will all afford abundant Materials for Instruction and reflection. In addition to these, the Exploits and Adventures of Individuals—the Excitement of good, or the Disappointment of bad, Sport—the contrivances of inexperienced, as well as of experienced, Anglers, and their Jokes good and bad—will furnish an ample Fund of Good Humour and amusement to those who meet with those qualifications, which every Houghtonian must necessarily bring with him to the Club Room at Stockbridge, the Tent at Houghton or the Parlour at the Boot. For let it be here recorded, that in this Club the good Example of Izaak Walton, our Patron Saint, has been so invariably followed that no Jealousy, no envying, no strife, no bickering has ever existed. The Wish of an Individual, whether expressed or implied, has been the Law

of all; the Happiness of each other has been the compass by which all have steered; no angry word, no selfish feeling has ever betrayed itself in our enviable circle. Every successive Meeting has been the means of uniting more firmly, if possible, that Friendship and Good Fellowship which has [*sic*] manifested itself from the beginning; which it has been the object of all to encourage; which it has been the unalloyed satisfaction of all to have experienced, and which, with hearts so constituted, must remain unshaken. Our Society may be dissolved by circumstances over which we have no control, but the Friendship which our Meeting has established, and the remembrance of the many happy hours passed in the company of each other, can only terminate with our Lives.

E. BARNARD.

CHARADE

My first is that to which are called  
The ardent Youth who, unappalled  
By legal tomes of ponderous size,  
Think all the Law can give their prize.

My second is an unguent bland,  
Which, when applied by leech's hand,  
Brings soft relief to wounds or scars,  
Or caused by accidents or wars.

My whole combined, a friend is named,  
The best of fishermen on Test proclaimed;  
Nor can the BAR in wit his head excell,  
Or NARD his kindly heart in doing well.

18th July 1827.—Last night the parlour at the Boot was occupied by Mr. Warburton and myself, where we remained till half-past two o'clock this morning, for the purpose of fishing during the morning rise. At daybreak a slight fog came over, and nothing was stirring on the water at the time we had expected—vizt. from three to four o'clock. We were preparing to return home, Mr. Warburton having only seen one fish feeding, which he caught at last by extreme perseverance; when suddenly, the fog clearing off, the fish began to move at a very small fly with a bright, transparent wing, the body being also bright, but reddening towards the head and tail. The water was completely covered



THE BOSTON  
By the French Company, &c.



20 THE HOUGHTON FISHING CLUB [1827

of all; the Happiness of each other has been the compass by which all have steered; no angry word, no selfish feeling has ever betrayed itself in our amiable circle. Every successive Meeting has been the means of uniting more firmly, if possible, that Friendship and honest Fellowship which has [*sic*] manifested itself from the beginning, which it has been the object of all to encourage; which it has been the unalloyed satisfaction of all to have experienced, and which, with hearts so united, must remain unshaken. Our Society may be dissolved by circumstances over which we have no control, but the Friendship which our Meeting has established, and the remembrance of the many happy hours passed in the company of each other, can only terminate with our Lives.

E. BARNARD.

CHARADE

My first is that to which are called  
The ardent Youth who, unappalled  
By legal tomes of piousness sit,  
Think all the Law can give their prize.

My second is an unguent bland,  
Which, when applied by leech's hand,  
Brings soft relief to wounds or scars,  
Or caused by accidents or wars.

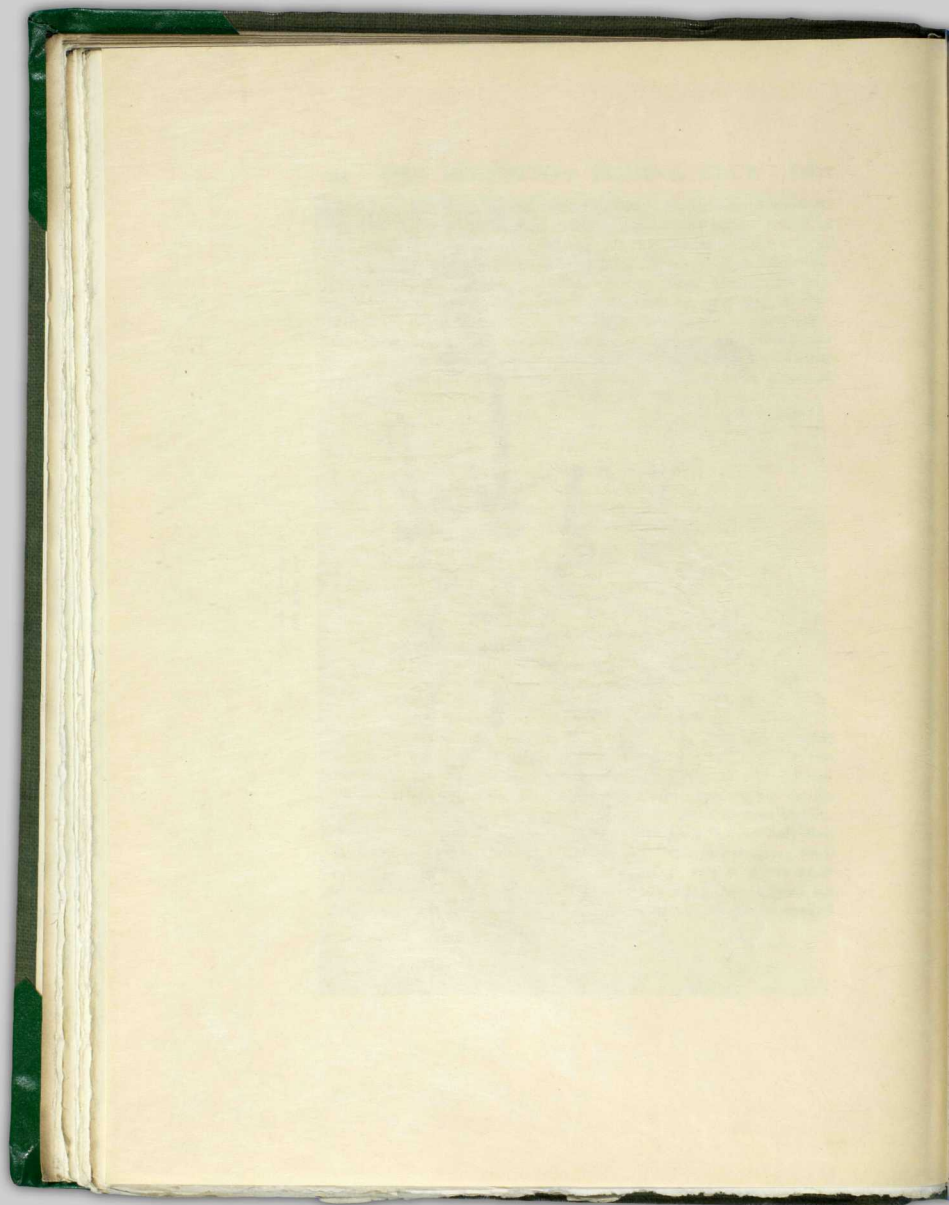
My whole combined, a friend is named,  
The best of fishermen on Test proclaimed;  
Nor can the BAR in wit his head crest,  
Or NARD his kindly heart in doing rest.

18th July 1827.—Last night the parlour at the Boats was occupied by Mr. Warburton and myself, where we remained till half-past two o'clock this morning, for the purpose of fishing during the morning rise. At daybreak a slight fog came over, and nothing was stirring on the water at the time we had expected—vizt. from three to four o'clock. We were preparing to return home, Mr. Warburton having only seen one fish feeding, which he caught at last by extreme perseverance; when suddenly, the fog clearing off, the fish began to move at a very small fry with a bright, transparent wing, the body being also bright, but reddening towards the head and tail. The water was completely covered





THE BOOR INN.  
*By Sir Francis Chantrey, R.A.*



with flies, and the fish rose in great numbers and with a greediness which I have hardly ever before witnessed. Indeed I do not recollect ever to have seen them rise so quickly in succession, and for so long a period; the rise not being quite over when we quitted the river at six o'clock. It was useless to throw a fly, as the fish would not touch any we had got, and were also so shy of the line as to cease rising the moment it touched the water. We fished at Houghton Shallow, North Head and Radnor Shallow, and although without sport, were highly gratified with the sight of the rise.

E. BARNARD.

*N.B.*—The chairs at the Boot do not make a comfortable bed for a man without flesh upon his hips!<sup>1</sup>

E. B.

*19th July 1827.*—This day was wet, with wind from the south-west; but although it was quite expected that the fish would feed freely, as the rain came after hot and bright weather, yet nothing was taken during the day. Artificial flies, artificial minnows, natural minnows and kill-devil having been all tried in vain. After nine o'clock at night, when everybody was gone home but myself, I killed a brace of good trout with the grey palmer and hooked two or three more. There was hardly any fly on the water, and consequently no rise of fish. The fish I killed were fished up, not having seen them rise previously.

*19th July 1827.*—It is stated by the fishermen at Stockbridge that the number of crayfish have considerably decreased within the last few years in this river; and the decrease is principally attributed to the great destruction effected by the water rats, who catch and devour them very eagerly.<sup>2</sup>

... Mr. Warburton and Mr. Barnard on leaving Stockbridge fished in the Kennet at Barton Court on the 25th July and found a Mayfly just risen from the water, another having been found only three days previously according to the account of the keeper. Wheat was reaped within a mile in the neighbourhood on the same day, which shows the season is by no means backward, and therefore the fly was not retarded

<sup>1</sup> The Boot was, and still is, a tavern on the Houghton Water.—Ed.

<sup>2</sup> The destroyers were probably grey Norway rats. The water-vole appears to be exclusively vegetarian in diet. Mr. Douglas English writes:—"I have frequently kept water-voles in captivity, and have never been able to induce one to eat anything outside the vegetable kingdom, and I have never trapped a water-vole with anything but a vegetable root (Millais's *British Mammals*, ii. 292).—Ed.

## 22 THE HOUGHTON FISHING CLUB [1828]

by that cause. W. Beckford saw the Mayfly on the Lakes of Como and Maggiore in June 1827, and on the Lake of Geneva in July. The eels of the Kennet are far beyond those of most rivers in point of size, and the Keeper (Crawford) stated that he had caught in one night, and in one hutch only, forty-nine eels weighing 137 lb. E. BARNARD.

[In those days the eels in the Kennet and other tributaries of the Thames ascended as "eel fare" from the sea through the Thames estuary and descended again, when mature, to spawn in the sea; but that access has long been closed to them, first, by pollution of the Thames, and later, since the Thames has been thoroughly purified, by the great out-fall at Barking, where the effluent, having been chemically treated for the precipitation of sewage matter, is completely de-oxygenated and therefore incapable of sustaining life. When the land water is high, this effluent passes rapidly away seaward; but when the river is low, it moves up and down with the tide, like a column of quicksilver in a thermometer, forming an impenetrable barrier to the passage of fish up or down channel. Smelts, it is true, have reappeared at Richmond and Teddington of late years; but the ascent of elvers from the sea, formerly such a well-marked phenomenon in spring in the Thames, has not yet been reported. Therefore all the eels now in the Thames and its tributaries must have entered the watershed from the west coast through the Severn Canal.—E.D.]

1828

7th April.—The Club met and, in the course of the week, the following Members and Visitors were present:—

Edwd. Barnard.  
Henry Warburton.  
Francis Popham.  
John Story Penleaze.

Wm. H. Wollaston.  
Richd. Penn.  
Henry Dampier.

### Visitors

C. Yorke.  
William Beckford.  
Robert Stewart (Greenham, Newbury).

John Jarrett (Marchand, Hants).  
Rob. Snow.  
John Penleaze.





EDWARD BARNARD AFTER DINNER.  
*By Sir Francis Chantrey, R.A.*



## 22 THE HOUGHTON FISHING CLUB [1828

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1828

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Edwd. Barnard.  
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Henry Daupier.

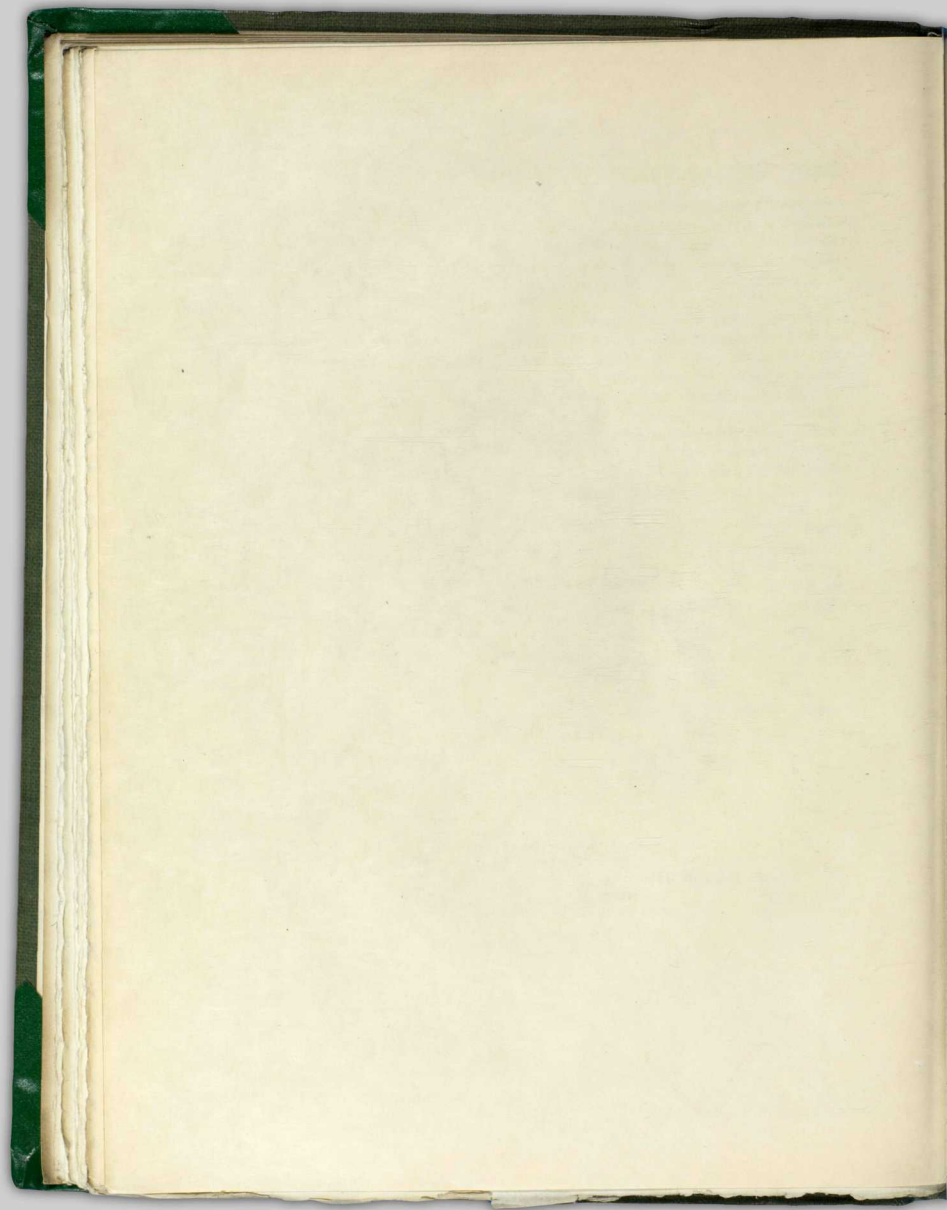
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Robert Stewart (Greenham, Newbury).

John Jarrett (Marchand, Hants).  
Rob. Snow.  
John Penlcaze.



EDWARD BARNARD AFTER DINNER.  
*By Sir Francis Chantrey, R.A.*



Inquiry being made after the health of Farmer Butt of Houghton who was observed to walk with difficulty, he replied that he suffered very much from pain in the back; and then, placing his hand upon the part affected, he added that "it was not Rheumatis, but what the Doctor called the Bum Ague [lumbago]."

. . . 12th April.—This day the grannom appeared upon the water tolerably strong, but the fish did not take it. The party broke up after the fishing of this day, having had very inferior sport. . . .

26th May.—The Mayfly appeared tolerably strong this day, although the fish did not take it well. On the 27th, 28th, 29th, and 30th very little fly appeared, and the fish were chiefly taken with the caperer, although very few trout were moving. . . . On the 31st the fly appeared strong, but still the fish refused it.

#### CHARADE

My First, when fish rise short, succeeding a splash,  
Is oft heard in an evening at Warburton's Wash;  
My Second is either the work of man's hand,  
Or made by the magic of Royal Command;  
With bald pate, broad shoulders, face merry and round,  
My Third of good temper the model is found  
Smiling alike, though wind be foul or fair,  
He lights his weed, and puffs away dull care.

[Answer, DAMPIER.]

. . . As it is not generally known that many other fish rise at the Mayfly occasionally besides those usually taken with it, I must mention two rare instances which have occurred this season.

The Rev. F. Beadon caught an eel in the River Itchen, at North Stoneham;<sup>1</sup> and Mr. John Pearse caught a perch at Hungerford. I have been informed by James Faithful of Horsebridge that he has not infrequently formerly caught carp in the still water below Bossington with the Mayfly.

E. BARNARD.

<sup>1</sup> In a smallish burn in Galloway, fishing just above the tide, I caught an eel with a small red spinner fly.—Ed.

# 24 THE HOUGHTON FISHING CLUB [1828

## VERSES UNDER H. WARBURTON'S PORTRAIT

Here to mature his thoughts by deep reflection,  
And weigh the arguments he'll next dilate on,  
He kills the trouts, and gives them for dissection  
To the experienced hand of Doctor Maton.

13th July.—As a hint to those Anglers who do not despise the Cookery of their Fish, be it known that a small Jack was wrapped in wet paper and placed for twelve minutes in the hot wood-ashes at the Boot; which proved most excellent when brought to table.

## WEIGHT OF FISH CAUGHT BY EACH MEMBER IN 1828

|                              | lb. | oz. |                       | lb. | oz. |
|------------------------------|-----|-----|-----------------------|-----|-----|
| The Dean of Carlisle . . . . | 24  | 11  | Mr. Dampier . . . .   | 46  | 15  |
| Mr. Penleaze . . . .         | 27  | 1   | Mr. Stanley . . . .   | 4   | 4   |
| Mr. Garrett . . . .          | 2   | 4   | Mr. Chantrey . . . .  | 33  | 5   |
| Mr. Penn . . . .             | 11  | 13  | Mr. Warburton . . . . | 72  | 13  |
| Dr. Wollaston . . . .        | 21  | 5   | Mr. Barnard . . . .   | 113 | 10  |
| Mr. Popham . . . .           | 47  | 2   |                       |     |     |

## Visitors

|                         | lb. | oz. |                         | lb. | oz. |
|-------------------------|-----|-----|-------------------------|-----|-----|
| Sir F. Sykes . . . .    | 2   | 4   | Mr. Snow . . . .        | 1   | 13  |
| Mr. Hyde Parker . . . . | 2   | 12  | Mr. J. Penleaze . . . . | 4   | 6   |
| Rev. F. Beadon . . . .  | 4   | 0   | Mr. Stewart . . . .     | 1   | 10  |
| Rev. H. Barnard . . . . | 8   | 5   | Mr. W. Beckford . . . . | 1   | 10  |
| Mr. Jarrett . . . .     | 10  | 10  | Capt. Yorke . . . .     | 4   | 8   |

|                            | lb.        | oz.      |
|----------------------------|------------|----------|
| Total Weight—Trout . . . . | 320        | 0        |
| Grayling . . . .           | 127        | 1        |
|                            | <u>447</u> | <u>1</u> |





HENRY T. THOMPSON, D.D.  
*By Sir Francis Chantrey, R.A.*

# 24 THE HOUGHTON FISHING CLUB [1828

## VERSES UNDER H. WARRINGTON'S PORTRAIT

Here to mature his thoughts by deep reflection,  
And weigh the arguments he'll soon dispute on;  
He kills the trouts, and gives them for recreation  
To the experienced hand of Deacon Mason.

13th July.—As a hint to those Anglers who do not despise the Cookery of their Fish, be it known that a small Jack was wrapped in wet paper and placed for twelve minutes in the hot wood-ashes at the Boor; which proved most excellent when brought to table.

## WEIGHT OF FISH CAUGHT BY EACH MEMBER IN 1828

|                                | lb. | oz. |                         | lb. | oz. |
|--------------------------------|-----|-----|-------------------------|-----|-----|
| The Dean of Carlisle . . . . . | 24  | 11  | Mr. Dampier . . . . .   | 46  | 15  |
| Mr. Penkese . . . . .          | 27  | 1   | Mr. Stanley . . . . .   | 4   | 4   |
| Mr. Garrett . . . . .          | 2   | 4   | Mr. Chantry . . . . .   | 21  | 5   |
| Mr. Penn . . . . .             | 11  | 13  | Mr. Wadsworth . . . . . | 72  | 13  |
| Dr. Wollaston . . . . .        | 21  | 5   | Mr. Barnard . . . . .   | 113 | 10  |
| Mr. Popham . . . . .           | 47  | 2   |                         |     |     |

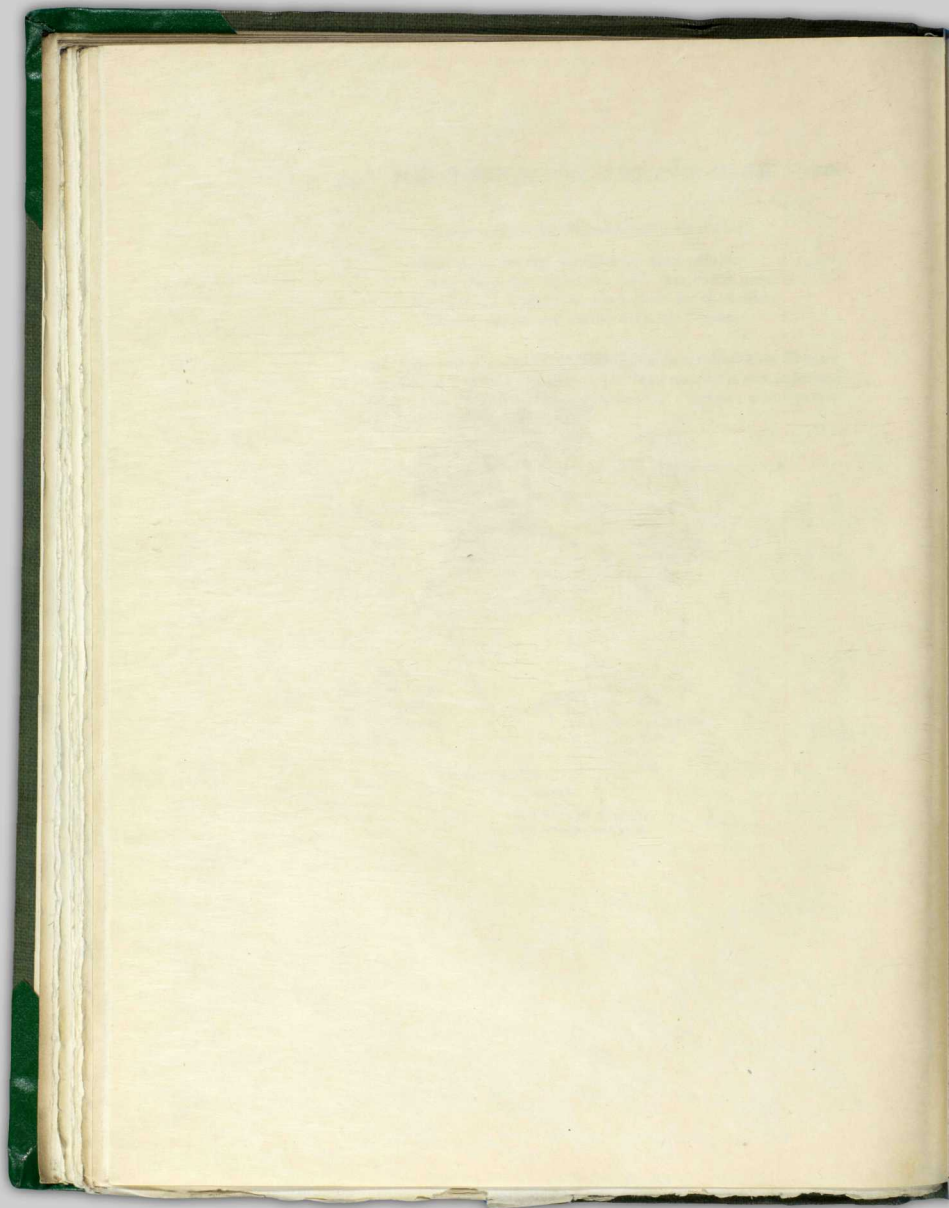
## Fishes

|                           | lb. | oz. |                          | lb. | oz. |
|---------------------------|-----|-----|--------------------------|-----|-----|
| Sir F. Sykes . . . . .    | 2   | 4   | Mr. Shaw . . . . .       | 1   | 13  |
| Mr. Hyde Parker . . . . . | 2   | 12  | Mr. J. Portman . . . . . | 4   | 6   |
| Rev. F. Beadon . . . . .  | 4   | 0   | Mr. Brown . . . . .      | 1   | 10  |
| Rev. H. Barnard . . . . . | 8   | 5   | Mr. W. Beadon . . . . .  | 1   | 10  |
| Mr. Jarrett . . . . .     | 10  | 10  | Capt. Voller . . . . .   | 4   | 8   |

|                              |     |   |
|------------------------------|-----|---|
| Total Weight—Trout . . . . . | 320 | 0 |
| Grayling . . . . .           | 127 | 1 |
|                              | 447 | 1 |



HENRY T. DAMPIER, D.D.  
*By Sir Francis Chantrey, R.A.*



1829

SINCE OUR LAST MEETING  
THE HOUGHTON CLUB  
HAS SUSTAINED AN IRREPARABLE LOSS  
BY THE DEATH OF  
DR. WILLIAM HYDE WOLLASTON.  
WHEREVER SCIENCE IS RESPECTED, AND  
FRIENDSHIP VALUED,  
HIS MEMORY WILL BE PRESERVED IN  
LASTING RECORDS OF THE DISTINGUISHED EXCELLENCE  
BY WHICH HIS MIND WAS ADORNED.  
THESE OUR "SHORT AND SIMPLE ANNALS"  
WILL ONLY SHOW THAT,  
WHILST HE WAS ACTIVELY EMPLOYED IN  
THE ACQUIREMENT AND DIFFUSION OF KNOWLEDGE  
HE OFTEN FOUND LEISURE TO JOIN US IN  
OUR HUMBLE SPORT,  
DELIGHTING AND INSTRUCTING US  
BY HIS CONVERSATION, AND  
COMMANDING, BY HIS TALENTS AND EXAMPLE,  
OUR ADMIRATION AND ESTEEM.

1st January 1829. *Richd. Penn.*

[William Hyde Wollaston (1766-1828), physiologist, chemist, and physicist, the founder of the Donation Fund of the Royal Society by a gift of £2000 in Consols. For his discoveries in physics, optics, chemistry, &c., see the *Dictionary of National Biography*. He declined to be put in nomination as President of the Royal Society in order to avoid disappoint-



## 26 THE HOUGHTON FISHING CLUB [1829]

ing his friend Sir Humphry Davy, but he acted as *ad interim* President for six months in 1820. In 1828 he gave £1000 in Consols to the Geological Society, which is the origin of their Wollaston Fund and Medal.—Ed.]

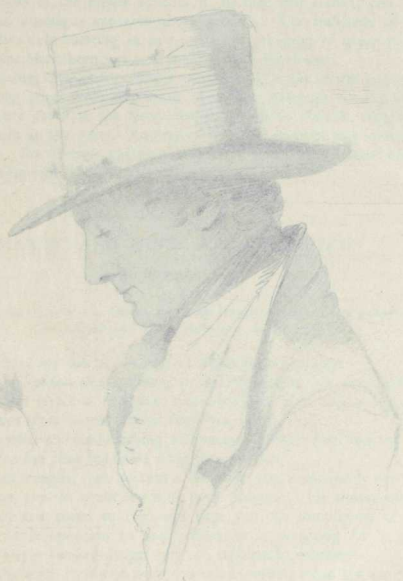
This year, in consequence of two vacancies having occurred, William H. Whitbread, Esq., M.P., was elected to succeed Dr. Wollaston, and Dr. Franck to succeed Colonel Walhouse; and, as an accession of water was gained by renting the Marsh Court Fishery, it was resolved to add the Rev. F. Beadon, Robert Snow, Esq., and John Abel Smith, Esq., as additional members.

It was further resolved that Charles Shard, Esq., and George Lovell, Esq., junr., who had previously rented the Marsh Court Fishery, should be invited to become members. Mr. Shard, however, declined, in consequence of his ceasing to reside in Hampshire; but Mr. G. Lovell accepted the offer, and it was resolved that Mr. Lovell be added to the list of members, without paying the entrance money of £10; as the Marsh Court Fishery had been held by him until it came into possession of the Club.

*Stockbridge, 25th April 1829.*—The Club met on the 20th inst. for Easter week, the following being present:—

|                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Mr. Warburton.  | Mr. Popham.    |
| Mr. Penn.       | Mr. Dampier.   |
| Mr. Chantrey.   | Mr. Penleaze.  |
| Mr. Barnard.    |                |
| <i>Visitors</i> |                |
| Mr. Whitbread.  | Mr. Jarrett.   |
| Mr. Stokes.     | Mr. Harris.    |
| Mr. Snow.       | Mr. Coleridge. |

A very backward season, but the trout were in good order and, when cooked, proved pink and well flavoured. The grannom was first, and only partially, seen one day during the week, vizt. the 23rd, when the fish did not know it. The weather cloudy, rainy, and cold, with rough wind, at first from south and south-west; but few fish were caught either with fly or minnow. The river was very full of water from the heavy rain of the previous days, and it is probable therefore that the attention of the fish was directed to the abundance of food brought into the stream out of the ditches and meadows, from the more unsubstantial supply at the top of the water.



HENRY WARD BYRON, M.P.  
By Sir Francis Chantrey, R.A.

## 26 THE HOUGHTON FISHING CLUB [1829]

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*Snakebridge, 25th April 1829.*—The Club met on the 20th inst. for Easter week, the following being present:—

Mr. Warburton.  
Mr. Penn.  
Mr. Chantrey.  
Mr. Barnard.

Mr. Foulkes.  
Mr. Dampier.  
Mr. Paulson.

### Visitors

Mr. Whitbread.  
Mr. Seakes.  
Mr. Snow.

Mr. Jarrett.  
Mr. Harris.  
Mr. Colledge.

A very backward season, but the trout were in good order and, when cooked, proved pink and well flavoured. The grannow was first, and only partially, seen one day during the week, vizt. the 23rd, when the fish did not know it. The weather cloudy, rainy, and cold, with rough wind, at first from south and south-west; but few fish were caught either with fly or minnow. The river was very full of water from the heavy rain of the previous days, and it is probable therefore that the attention of the fish was directed to the abundance of food brought into the stream out of the ditches and meadows, from the more unsubstantial supply at the top of the water.

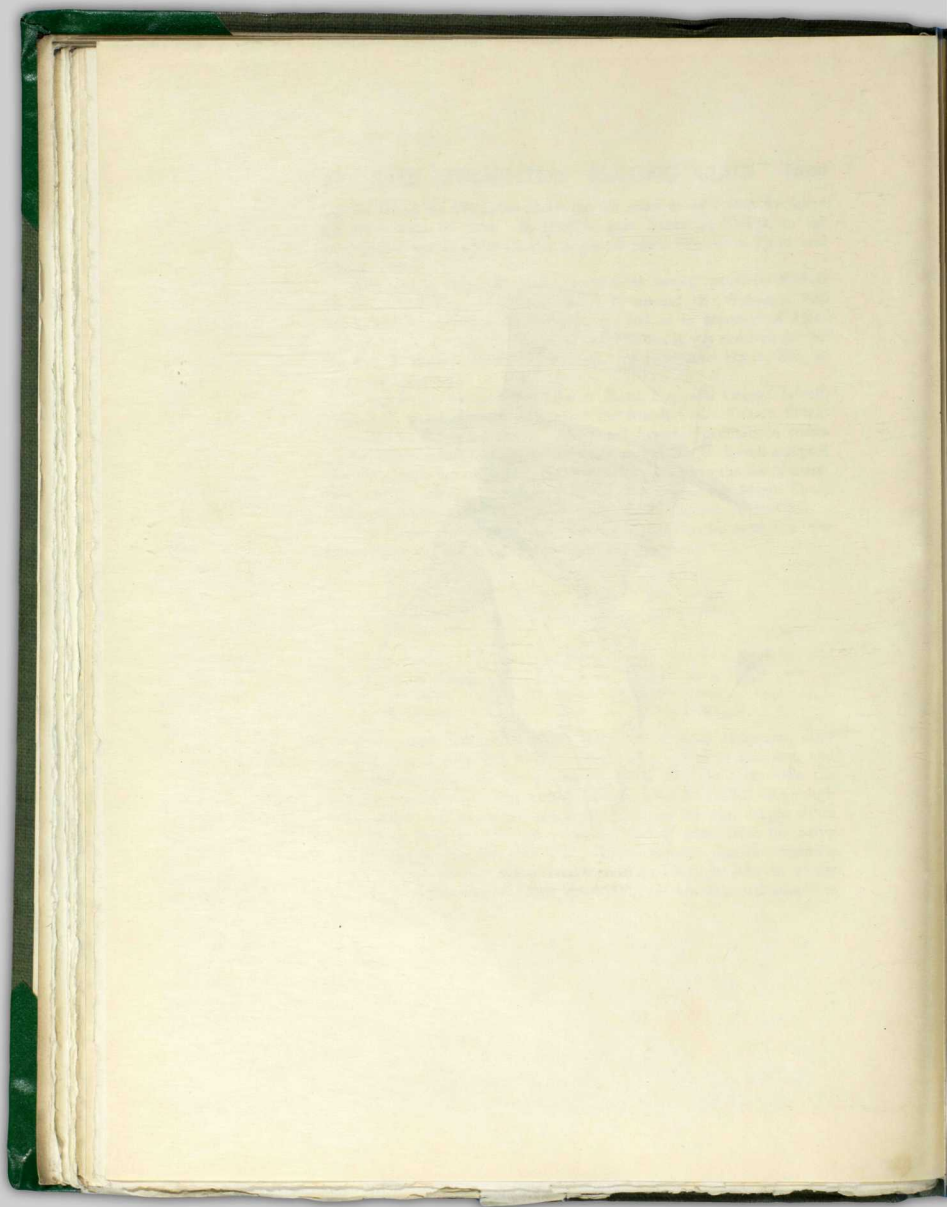
# THE FISHING CLUB

The fishing season in the Lake district of the north of England begins at the week that ends with the 1st of April. From that time to the end of the season was regularly carried at table from the garden of the house. But in this year, though our Meeting was short a week, however, the first of the season was not of the same quality and was not so good as the fishing of the last year. The weather of the season was not so good as the fishing of the last year. The weather of the season was not so good as the fishing of the last year.

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HENRY WARBURTON, M.P.  
By Sir Francis Chantrey, R.A.





With reference to the backwardness of the season it was remarked that in Easter week 1828, vizt. from the 7th to the 12th April, lilacs were in bloom and asparagus was frequently served at table from the garden of the hotel. But in this year, though our Meeting was above a week later, the first shoots of the flower bunches of the lilac were scarcely one inch long, and no asparagus appeared above ground. The leaf-buds of the hawthorn were only bursting so as to give a slight tinge of green to the bushes and the blackthorn was only putting forth its bloom.

The Meeting closed after fishing on the 25th, a day so wet and cold, with a strong wind from the north east, that, although sundry eager fishermen were down at the Sheep Bridge by eleven o'clock, they were all back again at the hotel, thoroughly drenched without any sport, by one o'clock. For further particulars—*experto crede Roberto Snow, necnon* Messrs. Warburton, Penn, Popham, and Stokes.

## MAXIMS AND HINTS FOR AN ANGLER

BY A BUNGLER

(Not inserted here as sure Guides, but loosely thrown out in order to provoke Contradiction and elicit Truth from the Expert.)

1. Are there any fish in the river to which you are going?
2. Having settled this question in the affirmative, get some person who knows the water to tell you whereabouts the fish usually lie, and when he shews them to you, do not shew yourself to them.
3. Comparatively coarse fishing will succeed better when you are not in sight of the fish than the finest when they see you.
4. Do not imagine that because a fish does not immediately dart off on first seeing you, he is not aware of your presence. He almost always on such occasions ceases to feed, and pays you the compliment of devoting his whole attention to you, whilst he is preparing for a start whenever the apprehended danger becomes sufficiently imminent.
5. A remarkable exception occurs to this in wading when the sun does not shine. You may certainly, in this case, approach within 18 or 20 yards of a fish, which would be immediately frightened by your walking at a greater distance from him on the bank.

6. In Mayfly fishing it is as well to wait for a passing cloud as to drive away the fish immediately by putting your fly to him in the glare of the sunshine.<sup>1</sup> *N.B.*—The Shadow of your rod thrown on the Water is fatal to sport.

7. If you pass your fly neatly and well three times over a trout, and he refuses it, go on to the next, and call on your former friend as you come back.

8. If your line be nearly *tanght* [*sic*] as it ought to be, and there be little or none of the gut in the water, a good fish will always hook himself on your gently raising the top of the rod when he has taken the fly.

9. If you are above him in the stream when you hook him, get below him as soon as you can; and remember that, if you pull him for an instant against the stream, he will probably, if a heavy fish, break his hold; or, if he should be firmly hooked, you will perhaps find that the united strength of the stream and the fish is too much for your skill and tackle.

10. I do not think that a fish has much power of stopping himself when he is moving through the water with the stream, under the influence of the rod and line. He may then be at once brought by a well regulated exercise of *douce violence* to the bank, whence he is to be instantly whipt out by an expert assistant provided with a landing net, the ring of which should not be of less diameter than 10 inches, the handle of it being 7 feet long.

11. If, however, after hooking a fish, you allow him to remain stationary but for a moment, he will have time to put his helm hard a-port or a-starboard, and to offer some resistance. Strong tackle then becomes useful. Bear always in mind that no tackle is strong enough unless well handled. A good fisherman will easily land a trout of 3 lb. with a rod and line which are not strong enough to lift a dead weight of 1 lb. from the floor and place it on a table.

12. In whipping with the artificial fly, remember that when you have drawn your fly out of the water, it must have time to make the whole circuit and be at one time straight behind you before it can be driven out straight before you. If you give it the forward impulse too soon, you will hear a crack. Take this as a hint that your fly has probably gone to grass.

<sup>1</sup> It was the practice to fish with the natural Mayfly on a blow-line. Fishing with the artificial fly was called "whipping."—ED.



DR. WILLIAM HYDE WOLLASTON  
*By Sir Francis Clendry, R.A.*

6. In Mayfly fishing it is as well to wait for a passing cloud as to drive away the fish immediately by putting your fly in him in the glare of the sunshine.<sup>1</sup> N.B.—The Shadow of your foot thrown on the Water is fatal to sport.

7. If you pass your fly nearly and well above a trout, and he refuses it, go on to the next, and call on your former friend as you come back.

8. If your line be nearly straight [sic] as it ought to be, and there be little or none of the gut in the water, a good fish will always hook himself on your gently raising the top of the rod when he has taken the fly.

9. If you are above him in the stream when you hook him, get below him as soon as you can; and remember that, if you pull him for an instant against the stream, he will probably, if a heavy fish, break his hold; or, if he should be deathly hooked, you will perhaps find that the united strength of the stream and the fish is too much for your skill and tackle.

10. I do not think that a fish has much power of stopping himself when he is moving through the water, and the stream, under the influence of the rod and line. My experience is at once brought by a well regulated exercise of observation on the bank, whence he is to be instantly whipt out by an expert assistant provided with a landing net, the ring of which should not be of less diameter than 10 inches, the handle of it being 7 feet long.

11. If, however, after hooking a fish, you allow him to remain stationary but for a moment, he will have time to put his helm hard a-port or a-starboard, and to offer more resistance. Strong tackle then becomes useful. Bear always in mind that no tackle is strong enough unless well handled. A good fisherman will easily land a trout of 3 lb. with a rod and line which are not strong enough to lift a dead weight of 1 lb. from the floor and place it on a table.

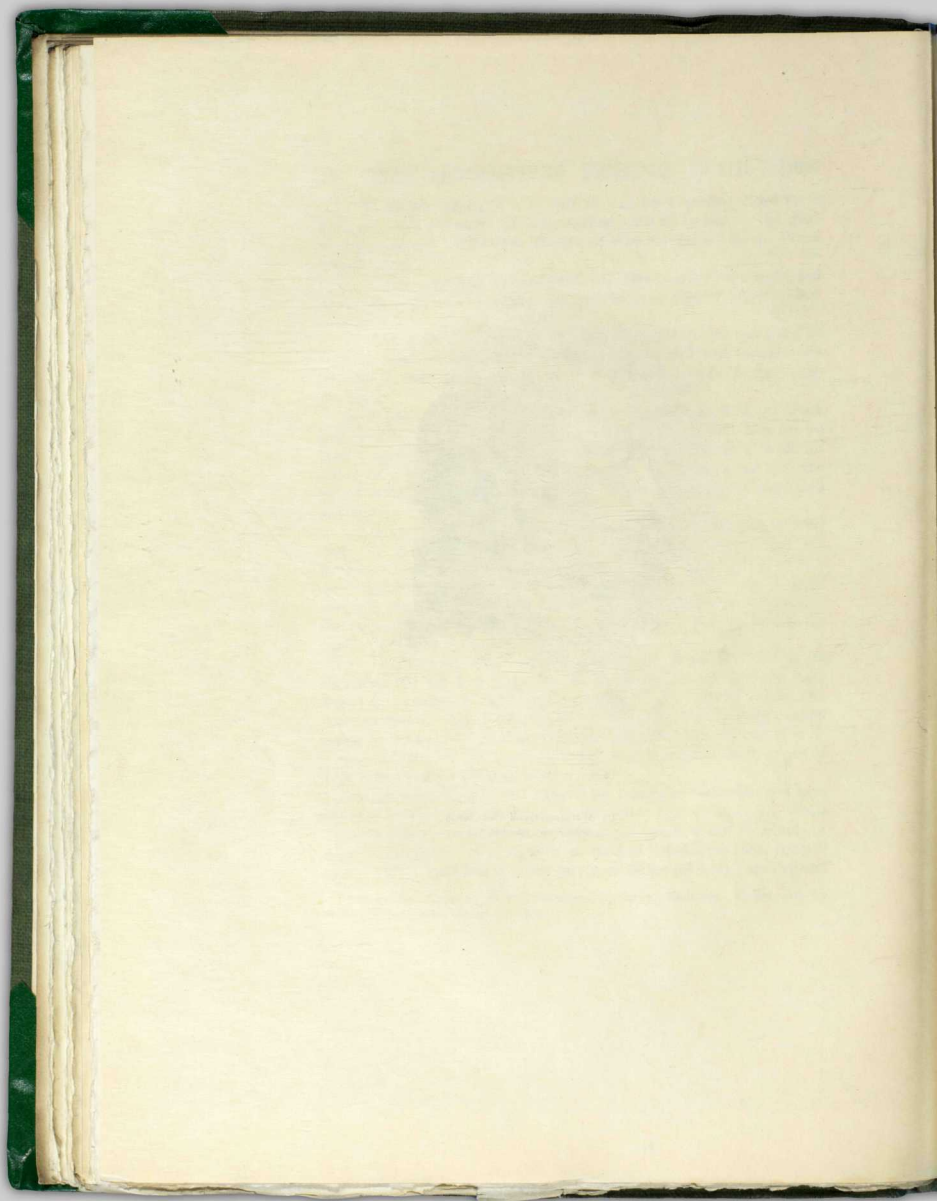
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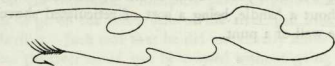
13. Never throw with a long line when a short one will answer your purpose. The most difficult fish to hook is one which is rising at three-fourths of the utmost distance to which you can throw. Even when at the extent of your distance you have a better chance, because in this case, when you do reach him, your line will be straight, and the intermediate failures will not alarm him when you do not.

14. It appears to me that, in whipping, there are only two cases in which a fish taking the fly will infallibly hook himself without your assistance: viz.—

(a) When your fly first touches the water at the end of a straight line.

(b) When you are drawing out your fly for a new throw.

15. If your fly should fall into the water thus—



it will either frighten away the fish, or he will take it into his mouth without fastening himself. When he finds it does not answer *his* purpose he will spit it out again before he has answered *yours*.

16. Although the question of fishing up or down the stream is usually settled by the direction of the wind, you may sometimes have the option, and it is therefore as well to say a word or two on both sides.

(a) If when you are fishing down-stream, you take a step or two with each successive throw, your fly is always travelling over new water, which cannot have been disturbed by the passing of your line.

(b) When you are fishing up-stream, you may lose the advantage of raising so many fish; but, on the other hand, you will have a better chance of hooking those which rise at your fly, because the darting forward of a fish seizing it has a tendency to tighten your line and produce the desired effect.

17. The learned are much divided in opinion as to the propriety of whipping with two flies or with one. I am humbly of opinion that your chance of hooking fish is much increased by using two flies; but I think that by using only one you increase your chance of landing the fish. If you catch a fish with one of the flies and a weed with the others, something must give way. The weed probably will not; and, when a *liaison* .

*dangerous* of this sort has taken place, it is as likely that all communication will be speedily cut off between you and the fish as between the fish and the weed.

18. When you are using two flies you can easily find the bob on the top of the water, and thus be sure that the end fly is not far off. When you are using only one fly, you cannot so easily see where the fly is; but I think that you can make a better guess as to where the fish is likely to be after you have hooked him.

19. If a friend invites you to his house and says that he will give you a day's excellent fishing, do not doubt his kind intentions, but do not be too sanguine in your expectation of good sport.

20. Provide yourself for such a visit with everything which you may want, as if you were going into an uninhabited country. Above all things take a landing net with you. Your friend's (if he has one) is probably torn and without a handle, being a sort of reticulated shovel for taking fish out of the well of a punt.

No directions are attempted to be given as to the best seasons for cutting the woods which are fittest for the making of rods, or as to the modes of preparing them; because the worst rod which is kept for sale in 1829 is probably as good as the best of the first few dozens which any amateur is likely to make for himself. This observation, however, does not apply without some limitation to home-made tackle; and therefore, if the foregoing Maxims and Hints are not too severely criticised, some speculations about silk, knots, gut, choice of hooks, &c., will at a future time be hazarded by

RICHD. PENN.

#### NOTES ON THE ABOVE OBSERVATIONS

No. 9. My friend says nothing of the greatest danger of a fish going up stream—vizt. his running into the weeds—a fatal occurrence.

No. 10. I do not know that a fish can stop himself so as to remain stationary, but he can turn himself, and that rapidly, so as to start off in another direction.

No. 15. A good fisherman knows when his line falls slack; and, if a fish rises at that moment, he strikes sharply to overcome the difficulty.

No. 16. Does the fish take the fly generally with his head up

stream? I think not. Except when he is very near the surface of the water for the purpose of sucking in the fly gently, I believe he turns his head down stream when he takes a fly, and then resumes his position. Most fish when they take a bait of any kind, make a turn the moment they seize it.

E. B[ARNARD].

Mr. Jones and Mr. Thompson lately went to the house of Mr. Jenkins for a day's fishing. They were received with the utmost hospitality by Mr. and Mrs. Jenkins; and on the following morning the gardener, who was on that day called the fisherman, was desired to attend them to the river. Thompson, who had a landing-net of his own, begged to have a boy to carry it. Jack was immediately sent for, and appeared in *top boots*, with a livery hat and waistcoat.

Arrived at the waterside, Thompson gave his gnat-basket to the boy, and told him to go on the other side of the river, and look on the grass for a few Mayflies. Jack said that he did not exactly know what Mayflies were, and that the river could not be crossed without going over a bridge a mile off. Thompson is a patient man, so he began to fish with his landing-net for a few Mayflies, and, after he had necessarily frightened away many fish he succeeded in catching six or seven flies. Working one of them with the blowing line much to his own satisfaction, and thinking to extract a compliment from his attendant, he said:—

"They do not often fish here in this way, do they?"

"No," said the boy, "they drags wi' a net. They did it the day afore yesterday!"

Our angler, after much patient fishing, hooked a fine trout; and, having brought him carefully to the bank he said:—

"Now, my lad, don't be in a hurry, but get him out as soon as you can."

Jack ran to the water's edge, threw down the net, and, seizing the line with both hands, of course broke it immediately.

Mine host, in order to accommodate his friends, dined early; and when they went after dinner to enjoy the evening fishing, they found that the miller had turned off the water, and that the river was nearly dry.

So they went back to tea!

R. P.

29th May 1829.—The Tent was pitched this day, and on the 30th inst. four Members were present and some few fish were taken with the May-



fly, which had appeared first partially on the 28th very late in the afternoon; vizt.  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 4 to five o'clock. The wind north and north-west, cold, with bright sun. Most of the Members fished on the 1st June, but the continuance of the wind in the same quarter prevented the rise of the fly, and very few fish were taken. The first general rise of Mayfly was on the 6th June; but on the morning of the 7th a frost was sufficiently sharp to kill the leaves of the buckbean and other plants in the meadows, and also destroyed most of the flies which had risen in the preceding day and were found dead in the grass. A few partial showers fell on the 8th, and from this time until the end of the Meeting, which closed on the 13th, there was daily expectation of a favourable change in the weather, as the clouds gathered in the south and south-east with the appearance of thunder; but although on the evening of the 10th the wind changed to the south, and continued for the following days in the same quarter, varying occasionally to south-west, yet no rain fell, and the brightness of the weather and the scarcity of the fly prevented sport. The fish never fed at the top of the water.

This was, without exception, the worst and most unpropitious season ever witnessed by the writer of these remarks. If a few fish were occasionally seen to rise at a Mayfly, they seldom repeated the experiment, frequently missing it and not moving again; and if they were hooked at all, sometimes so slightly as to break away directly. The evening whipping was the worst ever remembered, as the caper and thorn fly scarcely appeared upon the water at sunset. It was remarked that the Fish were never in better season; and, when dressed, were remarkably high coloured and well flavoured. . . . The river was unusually low, which is always destructive of sport. . . . Information received from those who have fished during the Mayfly in the Itchen, Colne, Kennett, as well as in the rivers of Derbyshire and Devonshire, confirm the general disappointment of the angler, both as to rise of fly and fish in this most extraordinary season.

E. BARNARD.

25th July 1829.—A Meeting, commencing this day and ending on the 1st August, was well attended, and, besides being graced by the presence of ladies, had other very acceptable visitors, of which the pen of Dr. Goodenough and the pencil of Mr. Turner afford satisfactory evidence. The sport was indifferent, and it was remarkable that there was scarcely any rise of fish either at sunset or daybreak.

E. B.



1829] THE HOUGHTON FISHING CLUB 33

. . . Although sport may be moderate at a July meeting, I beg leave to bear my humble testimony to the joyous, but well-regulated, hilarity, the unbounded good-humour, and the total oblivion of all care which reigns at that season from Stockbridge to Bossington Mill.

E. G[OODENOUGH] (*No fisherman*), July 30th, 1829.

16th October.—This day was rainy and very cold, but the fish rose freely in the afternoon. On the 17th it was mild, with warm sun, and the sport was very superior. I never saw a better rise of fish in any river, and a great many trout were caught by Mr. Dampier and myself, and thrown in again. Many brace of grayling were also taken, and besides those recorded in the Club book, a great many were sent alive to be put into the shallow below the Machine Bridge.

E. B.

20th November.—Mr. Warburton accompanied me here on the 11th, and we remained until this day. Brilliant sport, extraordinary rise of fish, and the water from one end to the other bore ample evidence of the quantity of both trout and grayling. The best fly for the grayling was the small red spinner, which was taken greedily. Great numbers of grayling were taken up to the Machine Bridge for stock, and there was ample employment for both of us during the whole day.

Mr. Warburton persevered as usual for the destruction of the jack. On the 13th he caught three; in the stomach of one a crawfish was found, in one of the others a stickleback. On the 18th it was ascertained by him on examination of the stomachs of the grayling that they fed on green weed, small shellfish and snails, leeches, &c., mixed with the usual flies of the season.<sup>1</sup>

An experiment was made of putting grayling, after they were boiled, into vinegar, which answered very well, and is recommended in future.

I never recollect to have had better amusement in sporting than during the period of my stay here, as the snipes kept me active when I was not fishing. We made up our minds with much difficulty to leave the place, and strongly recommend winter fishing to our brother sportsmen.

E. B.

<sup>1</sup> Grayling are suspected of doing injury to salmon and trout fisheries by devouring spawn. There is no confirmation of this here, although the trout must have begun to spawn.—ED.

RECEIPT FOR AN HASH OF VENISON, BEEF, MUTTON,  
GAME, OR WILD FOWL.

One pint, more or less, of clear good gravy:

One or two onions chopped very fine:

A little Kyan [cayenne]; a little salt:

Two, three or four tablespoonsfull of port wine:

Two, three or four tablespoonsfull of ketchup:

Make these to boil: let the meat be cut very thin and be put in when the gravy is boiling: turn the meat, &c., in about one minute: stir it or turn it, and in about three minutes let it be taken to table. *Not to stand before eaten*, as all hashes get hard if allowed to stand before eaten.

Boiled salt beef minced in clear good gravy, with onion sliced or chopped fine, is a dish in high repute.

(Signed) WM. GEO. GARRETT.

REFLECTIONS<sup>1</sup>

*After having eaten on the preceding day of the Mince and Hash  
prepared from above receipt*

Thy Hash, Friend Garrett, be it understood,

*Experto crede*, I report is good;

But he who rashly eats the Mince for dinner,

Rises next morning a repentant<sup>2</sup> Sinner!

E. B.

<sup>1</sup> For "Reflections" read "Ruminations."—R. P.

<sup>2</sup> For "a repentant" read "an eructant."—R. P.

## WRITTEN UNDER R. PENN'S PORTRAIT

Arouse, my Muse, nor wrapt in silence think;

Admit *his* right to claim a drop of ink.

If, o'er his portrait gravely lingering, thou

Remark'st the curling lip and arching brow,

Prepare your muscles to encounter then

Some quaint allusion from a ready Pen.



RICHARD PENN.  
*By Sir Francis Chantrey, R.A.*



# THE DOBSON FISHING CLUB

WRITTEN UNDER THE PORTRAIT BY ROBERT PENN

1841, First King of Sweden

As when the small and simple British King  
 Was led by his loving subjects the White's down  
 So he, by Master's instruction, from the  
 Greeting the small and simple of Tench's  
 From the fishing, I am to say, some  
 And the small and simple of Tench's  
 And the small and simple of Tench's



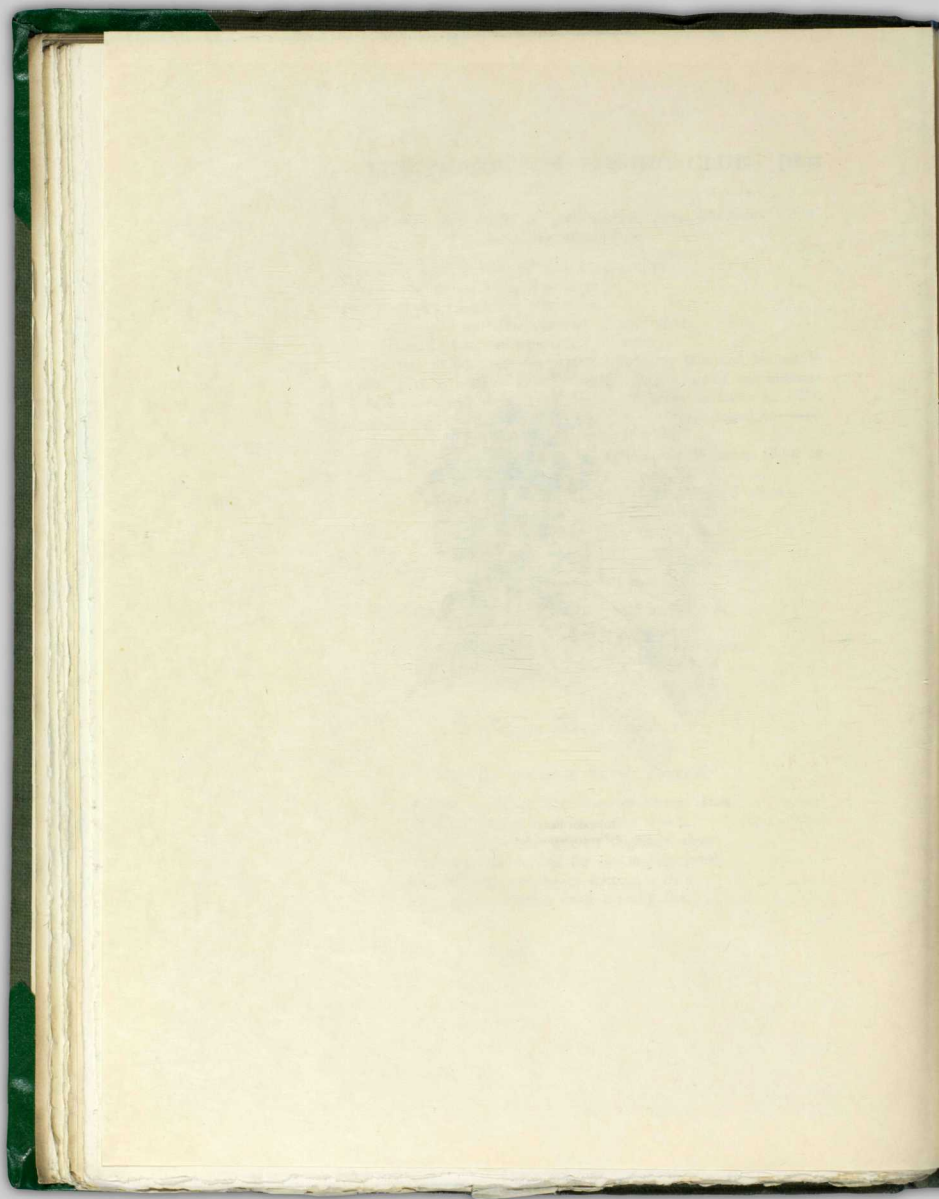
Mr. Penn  
 Mr. Penn  
 Mr. Penn  
 Mr. Penn  
 Mr. Penn  
 Mr. Penn

Mr. Penn  
 Mr. Penn  
 Mr. Penn

Mr. Penn, 1841, First King of Sweden

RICHARD PENN.  
 By Sir Francis Chantrey, R.A.





## WRITTEN UNDER THE PORTRAIT OF ROBERT SNOW

*Robert, First King of Stockbridge.*

As when the southern milder breezes blow,  
 Warned by the Spring departs the Winter's Snow;  
 So he, by Mayfly summoned from afar,  
 Quitting the noise and smoke of Temple Bar,  
 From fluctuating *Funds* to gain some Rest  
 Seeks *consolation* on the River Test  
 And gives by *Line*, conveyed without a frank,  
 A *check* to Trout & Co. upon the Bank.

"Jam satis nivis," Horace says,  
 And Horace ought to know;  
 But yet he's wrong—the Houghton Club  
 Can't have too much of Snow!

F. B[eadon].

## WEIGHT OF FISH CAUGHT BY EACH MEMBER IN 1829

|                        | lb. | oz. |                     | lb. | oz. |
|------------------------|-----|-----|---------------------|-----|-----|
| Mr. Popham . . .       | 25  | 9   | Mr. Penn . . .      | 41  | 5   |
| Mr. Garrett . . .      | 14  | 12  | Mr. Dampier . . .   | 43  | 5   |
| Mr. Whitbread . . .    | 19  | 13  | Mr. Chantrey . . .  | 18  | 4   |
| Dean of Carlisle . . . | 3   | 7   | Mr. Snow . . .      | 7   | 4   |
| Mr. Barnard . . .      | 73  | 15  | Mr. Warburton . . . | 106 | 7   |
| Mr. Beadon . . .       | 9   | 3   |                     |     |     |

*Visitors*

|                    | lb. | oz. |                     | lb. | oz. |
|--------------------|-----|-----|---------------------|-----|-----|
| Mr. Jarrett . . .  | 6   | 5   | Mr. Coleridge . . . | 2   | 2   |
| Mr. Jones . . .    | 3   | 6   | Mr. Turner . . .    | 1   | 14  |
| Mr. Durnford . . . | 1   | 4   |                     |     |     |

*Total Weight, 1829: 378 lb. 6 oz. From this weight, however, should be deducted 43 lb. of Jack caught by Mr. Warburton, leaving—*

|                | lb.        | oz.      |
|----------------|------------|----------|
| Grayling . . . | 147        | 1        |
| Trout . . .    | 188        | 5        |
|                | <u>335</u> | <u>6</u> |

## CHARADE

My first in Autumn oft salutes our ears;  
 Part of a pickled pig my next appears;  
 Both Friends and Trouts to own his captive spells  
 My Whole with *single-handed Truth* compels.

[Answer, POPHAM.]

1830

17th April 1830.—The Easter Meeting ended this day. The grannom for two or three days during the week was strong upon the water; the grayling took it freely, the trout only partially, owing to dull, windy weather. . . . Very little was done with the minnow. . . . Many large fish were caught, which is unusual at this season, and all the trout were in good condition.

My attention has been directed for some years to such observations as might enable me, at a distance from the Rivers Itchen and Test, to judge of the precise period at which the first rise of the Mayfly would take place in these rivers. I was led to this in some measure by necessity, having only ten days generally to devote myself to my favorite amusement of fishing, and it being therefore of consequence to me to economize my time. . . . The variation of this period in different seasons is so great that I have known the Mayfly fishing begin in the Itchen at Stoneham as early as the 21st of May, and in the Test at Houghton on the 24th, although it has in other years been delayed in the first of these rivers until the 7th of June, and in the latter to the 8th of June.

In this state of uncertainty I selected the plants which were in bloom in the neighbourhood of London as the guide for my departure; and although perhaps an entomologist may consider that it would be more to the purpose to watch the insects which appear in succession as an index for this purpose; yet, as many families of insects feed wholly upon the leaves of plants, it is obvious that it is the temperature of the air which develops the one, gives at the same time existence to the other. . . .

The first flower which gave me notice in the experience of former years was the common garden tulip (*Tulipa Gesneriana*), which is grown



ROBERT SNOW.

*By Sir Francis Chantrey, R.A.*

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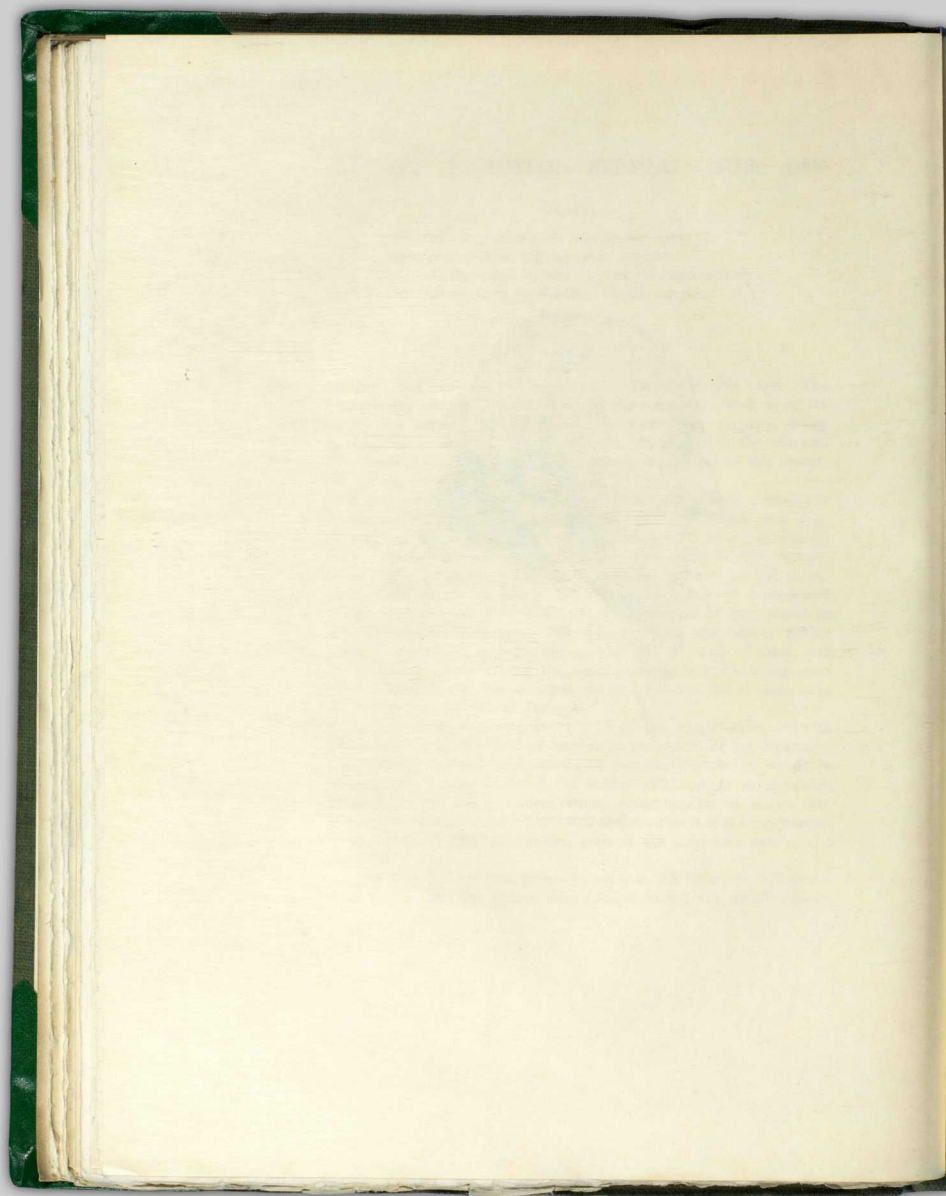
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ROBERT SNOW,  
Esq. St. Francis Chantry, E. 4.



by florists for exhibition in the neighbourhood of London, and which being generally, from custom, planted on the 9th November, vizt. Lord Mayor's Day, is so far a good test, and it may be remarked that, until all the flowers are fully expanded, and the bloom at its height, no fears need be entertained by those who remain in London that any time is lost. It is necessary, however, to state that all the tulips grown commonly in flower borders, of which many are of a different and earlier species, must not be mistaken for that now pointed out.

My observations for the last ten years enable me now to add the following plants.

*The Whitethorn* must be generally in full bloom, and the double pink variety of it expanded on the south side of the bush.

*The Common Hedge Garlick* (*Erysimum Alliaria*)<sup>1</sup> must be strong in seed.

*Laburnum*, blossoms generally going out of bloom.<sup>2</sup>

*Guelder Rose* at its height.

*The Double Red Peony*, so common in most gardens, is a good guide. When that plant has any flower fully expanded, the Mayfly is so forward that one warm day brings it into full activity.

*The Common Elder Tree* comes nearer, perhaps, to the point than any other I have yet adverted to, and no rise of fly, except perhaps a few stragglers, is to be looked for until most of the elder bushes exhibit some bunches of full blown flowers. In plants of the elder, whitethorn and laburnum, a latitude must always be given for certain seedling varieties which are earlier or later than others of their respective kinds, and a fair allowance must be made for the situation of plants in favorable aspects and sheltered corners. . . .

#### HINTS

When your friends, during the season of the Mayfly, say that "they have scarcely seen a fish rise all day," do not too hastily conclude

<sup>1</sup> Not to be confused with the true wild garlick or ramsons (*Allium ursinum*, Linn.). The plant referred to by Mr. Barnard is the Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria officinalis*), a cruciferous plant, also known as Sauce-alone.—Ed.

<sup>2</sup> There are two species of *Laburnum*; that most common near London being *Cytisus laburnum*; the other, flowering ten days or a fortnight later, commonly called Scotch *Laburnum* (*Cytisus alpinus*).

that no fish has been feeding on the fly. That which is usually called "rising" is the splash which is made by a fish when he darts from a considerable depth in the water to catch an occasional fly on the surface. There is another sort of rising which is better worth the angler's attention.

When a fish is seriously feeding on the fly, he stations himself at no greater depth than his own length; and, making his tail the hinge of his motions, he gently raises his mouth to the top of the water, and quietly sucks in the fly passing over him. A rising of this sort is not easily seen, but it is worth looking for; because altho' a fish feeding in this manner will rarely go many inches on either side after a fly, he will as rarely refuse to take one which comes (without any gut in the water) directly to him.

If, however, your fly (gut unfortunately included) should swim over him, look out well for a darting line of undulation which betokens his immediate departure; and remember that it is of no use to continue fishing for him after he is gone.

The stations chosen by fish for feeding are those which are likely to afford them good sport in catching flies; vizt. the confluence of two branches of a stream divided by a patch of weeds, or that part of a stream which has been narrowed by two such patches. Fish are also to be found under the bank opposite the wind.

If, during your walks by the river side, you have marked any good fish, it is fair to presume that other persons have marked them also. Suppose the case of two well-known fish which we will call A and B. Suppose, also, that you have just succeeded in catching B, and that some cunning friend should then say to you in a careless way—"Where did you take that fine fish?" A finished fisherman would advise you in such a case to say that B had been taken from the spot which, in fact, you know to be still occupied by A. Your friend, good easy man, would then think no more of A, supposing it to be no longer in the river; and whilst he innocently resumes his operations on the spot where he supposes B still to be, you may perhaps yourself catch A also.<sup>1</sup>

When your waterproof boots are wet through, make a hole or two

<sup>1</sup> This Macchiavelian counsel is so little pleasant in itself, and so much at variance with the lofty principles of good-fellowship wherein the Club was founded, that I feel some misgiving in allowing it to be printed.—Ed.



FRANCIS POPHAM.  
*By Sir Francis Chantrey, R.A.*



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The stations chosen by fish for feeding are those which are likely to afford them good sport in catching their prey: viz. the confluence of two branches of a stream, bordered by a growth of weeds, or that part of a stream which has been converted by the local patches. Fish are also to be found under the last, opposite the wind.

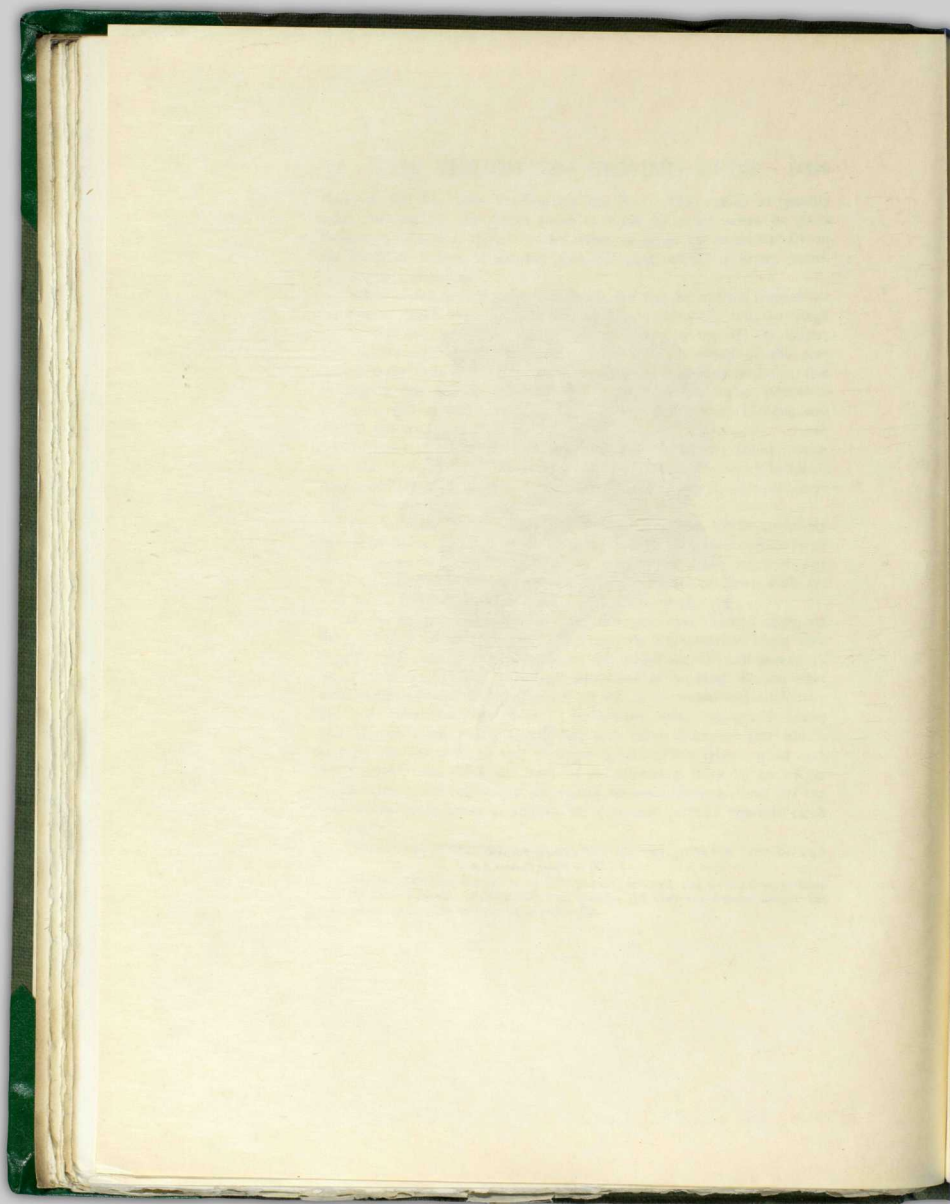
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FRANCIS POPLAM.  
*By Sir Francis Chantrey, R.A.*



near the bottom of them, in order that the water which runs in whilst you are walking in the river may run out again whilst you are walking on the bank. You will thus avoid an accompaniment of pumping music which is not agreeable.

Never mind what they of the Old School say about "playing him till he is tired." Much valuable time and many a good fish may be lost by this antiquated proceeding. Put him into your basket *as soon as you can*. Everything depends on the manner in which you commence your acquaintance with him. If you can at once prevail upon him to walk a little way down stream with you, you will not have much difficulty afterwards in persuading him to let you have the pleasure of seeing him at dinner.

Do not be afraid of filling your pockets too full when you go out. You are more likely to leave something behind which you may want. A man who seldom catches a fish at any other time, usually gets hold of one (and of course loses him) whilst his attendant is gone back for something which has been forgotten.

If your attendant is a handy fellow at landing a fish, let him do it in his own way. If he is not, try and find a better man, or go home. Altho' so much depends upon his skill, you will not often derive much comfort from asking for his opinion. If you have had bad sport, and say to him—"Which way shall we go now?" he will probably say—"Where you please, sir!" If you ask him what he thinks of the weather, he is very likely to say that last week (*when you were in London*) it was "famous fishing weather," or that he expects next week (*when you are to be in London again*) it will be very good. I never knew one of these men who was satisfied with the present hour.

Do not leave off fishing early in the evening because your friends are tired. After a bright day, the largest fish are to be caught between sunset and dark. Even in these precious moments, however, you will not have good sport if you continue throwing after you have whipt off your fly.

RICHD. PENN.

On the 17th May 1830 I took up my quarters at the Grosvenor Arms, having predicted an early Mayfly. . . . On the 19th some very fine and full grown Mayflies were seen at North Head and at the upper end of the Marsh Lake at Stockbridge. . . . On the morning of Sunday 23rd there appeared a very strong rise of fine flies at Bossington, North



Head, Cooper's Mead, and above Stockbridge towards Longstock, and the fish began to take it in some places. . . . The season was in most respects one of disappointment, as the fly rose in a very uncertain manner. . . . An opinion was started that the grayling, by their constant grubbing and feeding at the bottom on Houghton and Radnor Shallows, had destroyed the larvæ of the Mayfly in that part of the water; but *the total absence of grayling from the Borough Water*, and their scarcity at Marsh Court Shallow, in both of which places the fly failed, sufficiently refutes this idea. The fish were never seen in finer condition, and the list of those caught gives satisfactory evidence of their great increase in size throughout the fishery. . . .

EDW. BARNARD.

Thomas Faithful placed two trimmers in the river at Bossington, one at the side of the stream on a stick which he fixed in the bank; the other on a mud-bank in the middle of the river about 200 yards higher up. A few hours afterwards he found the bait, with the line, stick, &c., gone from the bank altogether. On going up to the trimmer in the middle of the river, he observed that the line was run out. Taking it up he found a jack of 8 lb. weight which had taken both baits, and Faithful recovered his lost line and stick of the first trimmer, which had been dragged up the strong stream of Bossington Shallow to the place where the fish was caught.

Charles Elton lost a hook in October, which had been taken off a trimmer, with part of the line, in the deep water above the Marsh Court Weir. In the following March he was dragging the hole at the tail of the weir, and he observed a jack about 3 or 4 lb. weight go towards the net. The fish, though it did not bag itself, remained struggling, apparently unable to get away. On taking out the net, Elton found that the fish was held to the net by the hook of a trimmer which it had swallowed, and which had worked through the side of the fish three inches below the gill, with about half of the wire, the remainder being still in the fish. There was a scar in the side above the wire, caused by the flesh having been cut as the wire had been gradually drawn out, but the flesh was perfectly healed, and the fish in high condition, not having suffered at all from the too liberal use of *sauce piquante* with which the bait had been flavoured.

E. B.



## INTRODUCTION OF GRAYLING TO THE ITCHEN

19th Novem.—Mr. Dampier met me here on the 15th inst. . . . Mr. Garrett joined us on the 17th. . . . The fish rose well and afforded good sport. The principal object of this meeting was to catch store grayling for Mr. Paulet Mildmay who was desirous of introducing them into the River Itchen. On the 18th thirteen brace and a half were sent off in tubs from Houghton Shallows, and ten brace reached the Itchen alive, many of them one pound weight. They were put into the river at Shawford, below Winchester.

EDW. BARNARD.

*A letter from ELTON (Keeper)*

June 27, 1830, STOCKBRIDGE.

SIR, I Rite To in Farmyu that this Last Weicke wee Have Been Trubeld very Much with Porchars and wee Watch them very Narely on Sunday mourning A Bout 7 o Cloack Charles Faithfull Maken [?] & mee cought Joseph Larence & John Tubb a Dradging the Water att the Sheep Bridge wee Toock the Dradge Nett From them & thar Great Sticks wee ar going To Have them To Mr. Penbeel [?] To morrow Morning

Sir wee Remaine your Survents

JOHN & CHARLES ELTON.

*By the Desier of Charles.*

SIR, the Reason that I Did not Rite To you Before was I Could not Find out the Particklers of my wifes Fathers Afares wich I was speaking To you A Bout at Stockbridge And the Case Remains very much same I Can onley Find out that the will is in the Hands of one Warrek — [?] But I Do not Now is Address.

In the month of July vacancies occurred in the Club by the resignations of the Dean of Carlisle and John Abel Smith, Esq., and in the same month Sir Hussey Vivian, M.P., and John Jarrett, Esq., were unanimously elected to supply the vacancies thus created.

# 42 THE HOUGHTON FISHING CLUB [1831

## WEIGHT OF FISH CAUGHT BY EACH MEMBER IN 1830

|                        | lb. | oz. |                     | lb. | oz. |
|------------------------|-----|-----|---------------------|-----|-----|
| Dean of Carlisle . . . | 8   | 4   | Mr. Jarrett . . .   | 24  | 5   |
| Mr. Whitbread . . .    | 12  | 11  | Mr. Garrett . . .   | 44  | 9   |
| Mr. Snow . . .         | 12  | 10  | Mr. Popham . . .    | 51  | 2   |
| Mr. Penleaze . . .     | 9   | 12  | Mr. Penn . . .      | 61  | 7   |
| Mr. Lovell . . .       | 15  | 1   | Mr. Chantrey . . .  | 74  | 11  |
| Mr. Beadon . . .       | 21  | 2   | Mr. Warburton . . . | 76  | 12  |
| Mr. Dampier . . .      | 21  | 10  | Mr. Barnard . . .   | 160 | 5   |

## Visitor

|   | lb.        | oz. |
|---|------------|-----|
| Captain Mudge . . . . .                         | 11         | 5   |
| <i>Total Weight in 1830</i> —Grayling . . . . . | 255        | 1   |
| Trout . . . . .                                 | 334        | 3   |
| Jack . . . . .                                  | 16         | 5   |
|   | <u>605</u> | 9   |

## 1831

4th April.—The Easter Meeting commenced this day, under favourable auspices of westerly and south-westerly winds; but it was rather too early in the season for good sport, though the fish were in good season and the grayling particularly well-flavoured. . . . But little fly appeared. The minnow fishing generally failed. Up to the 9th inst. no grannom appeared on the water. The swallows were only seen two days; the wry-neck and the cuckoo were not heard during the Meeting. No asparagus above ground in the garden at the hotel. The leaves of the hawthorn not opened perfectly, although towards the end of the week the bushes were becoming generally green. Lord Saltoun, Mr. Walter Campbell of Isla, the Hon. W. Gage, Captain Tudor, and Captain Bowen were visitors.

E. B.



GEORGE WARDE NORMAN.  
*By Sir Francis Chantrey, R.A.*

## 42 THE HOUGHTON FISHING CLUB [1831

### WEIGHT OF FISH CAUGHT BY EACH MEMBER IN 1830

|                            | lb. | oz. |                         | lb. | oz. |
|----------------------------|-----|-----|-------------------------|-----|-----|
| Doss of Carlisle . . . . . | 8   | 4   | Mr. Jacson . . . . .    | 24  | 5   |
| Mr. Whitbread . . . . .    | 12  | 11  | Mr. Gower . . . . .     | 44  | 9   |
| Mr. Snow . . . . .         | 12  | 10  | Mr. Popham . . . . .    | 51  | 2   |
| Mr. Penlesse . . . . .     | 6   | 12  | Mr. Penn . . . . .      | 61  | 7   |
| Mr. Lovell . . . . .       | 15  | 1   | Mr. Chantry . . . . .   | 74  | 11  |
| Mr. Beadon . . . . .       | 21  | 2   | Mr. Warburton . . . . . | 76  | 12  |
| Mr. Dampier . . . . .      | 21  | 10  | Mr. Barnard . . . . .   | 160 | 5   |

### Visitor

|   |     |     |
|---|-----|-----|
| Captain Mudge . . . . .                 | lb. | oz. |
|   | 11  | 5   |
| Total Weight in 1830—Grayling . . . . . | lb. | oz. |
| Trout . . . . .                         | 255 | 1   |
| Jack . . . . .                          | 334 | 3   |
|   | 589 | 4   |

### 1831

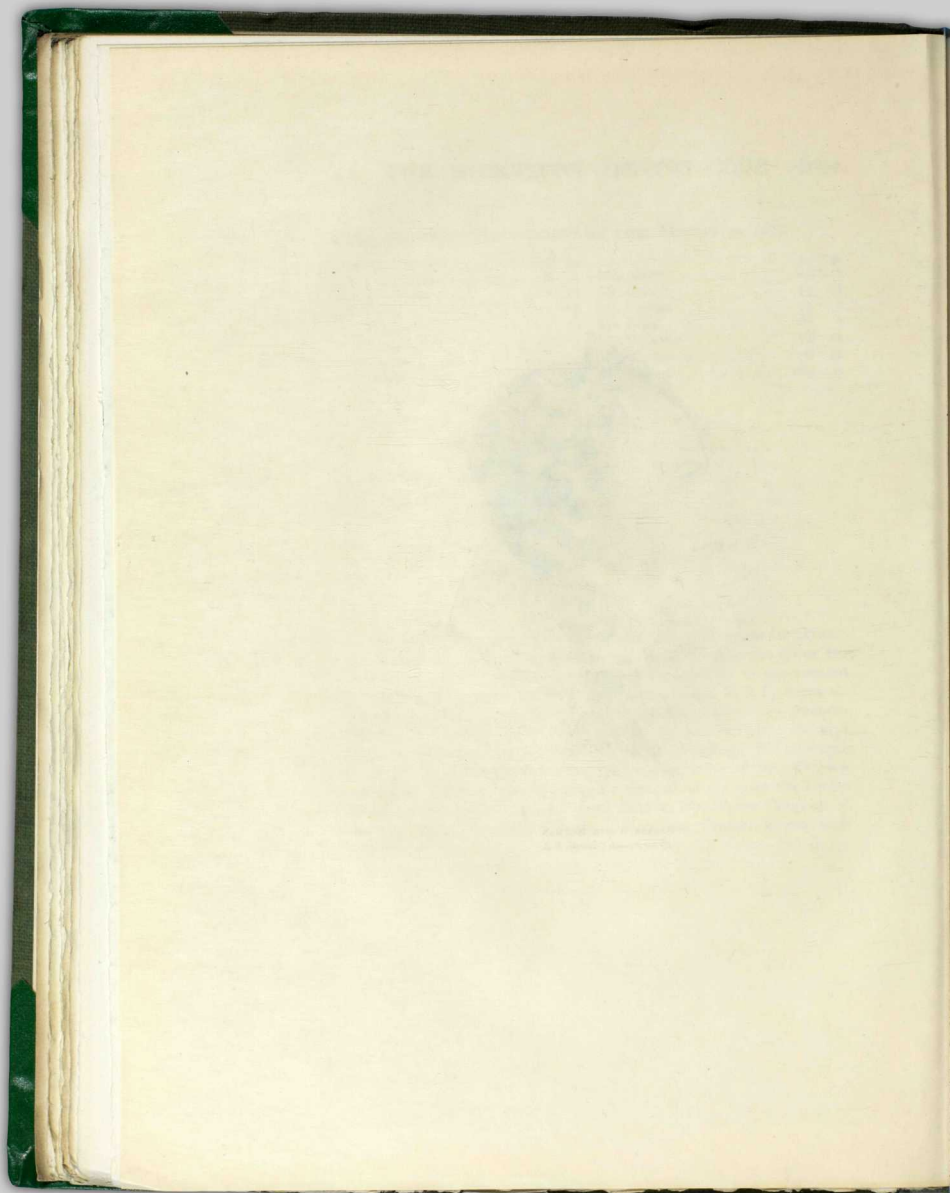
4th April.—The Easter Meeting commenced this day, under favourable auspices of westerly and south-westerly winds; but it was rather too early in the season for good sport, though the fish were in good season and the grayling particularly well-flavoured. . . . But lucid fly appeared. The minnow fishing generally failed. Up to the 9th inst. no grasshopper appeared on the water. The swallows were only seen two days; the wren-neck and the cuckoo were not heard during the Meeting. No asparagus above ground in the garden at the house. The leaves of the hawthorn not opened perfectly, although towards the end of the week the bushes were becoming generally green. Lord Saltoun, Mr. Walter Campbell of Isla, the Hon. W. Gage, Captain Tudor, and Captain Bowen were visitors.

E. B.



GEORGE WARDE NORMAN.  
By Sir Francis Chantrey, R.A.





## A SONG

*Composed expressly for the Houghton Club by an unknown author, but supposed to be written and dedicated to the Members by their enthusiastic Colleague, Henry Warburton.*

Haste, haste! Lads of the Hook and Line,  
 Why are ye lingering? Barnard calls loudly;  
 Haste, haste! Charles Elton<sup>1</sup> gives the sign,  
 His hat decked with Mayflies, and waving it proudly.  
 Lay aside business—London and cares forget—  
 Put off engagements for parties and dinners;  
 Come all Honest Fellows, since here our Club has met,  
 Leave London enjoyments to citizen sinners.  
 Haste, haste! Lads of the Hook and Line,  
 Whom no selfish feelings or jealousies sever;  
 Friendship's our watchword, Good-nature our countersign;  
 Huzza for the Mayfly, and Houghton for ever!

Moses is moaning for want of his master;  
 Roe thinks the Colonel<sup>2</sup> uncommonly slack;  
 The Donkey<sup>3</sup> brays loud to make Chantry come faster,  
 And Faithfull fears Dicky<sup>4</sup> ne'er means to come back.  
 Maton is ready with knives, spoons, and dishes;  
 The Tent rears its crest o'er the meadows so gay;  
 Old Butt<sup>5</sup> wonders the gentlemen leave all the fishes  
 To rise on so freely, and still stay away.  
 Haste, haste! &c. &c.

Barnard walks up and down, fishing and fretting,  
 And plans with John Elton the work of each day;  
 Popham, a stickler at whipping and wetting,  
 Goes right through each shallow that comes in his way.

<sup>1</sup> Club fisherman.

<sup>2</sup> Mr. Warburton appears to have been called "the Colonel."

<sup>3</sup> A. Brown, Chantry's attendant.

<sup>4</sup> Richard Penn.

<sup>5</sup> A neighbouring farmer.

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To watch the nice moment when wind and a dark cloud suits,  
 Snow takes his station near some sheltered bush,  
 With his plaid cloak enveloped and stout pair of water boots,  
 Old Watts his attendant, and trusty Bob Lush.  
 Haste, haste! &c. &c.

What pleasure can vie with the fisherman's rapture,  
 When a trout is well hooked and beginning to flounder?  
 Except when it proves at the moment of capture  
 To turn in the scale a thick, well-fed three-pounder.  
 Then oh! 'tis a dainty sight to see the fish at night,  
 And Penn in his pockets so warily feeling;  
 To hear Chantry uproarious, when he's victorious,  
 And Garrett who goes to bed every night *reeling*.  
 Haste, haste! &c. &c.

Oh! what can compare with the joy of a fisher's life?  
 Tranquil, contented, no spleen in his breast:  
 He finds his amusement each morning a foe to strife,  
 At night seeks his pillow with conscience at rest.  
 With true social companions all his hours pass away,  
 With fresh air his health and his spirits increase;  
 And with heart free from trouble, when he meets his last day,  
 He dies, as he lived, both resigned and in peace.  
 Haste, haste! &c. &c.

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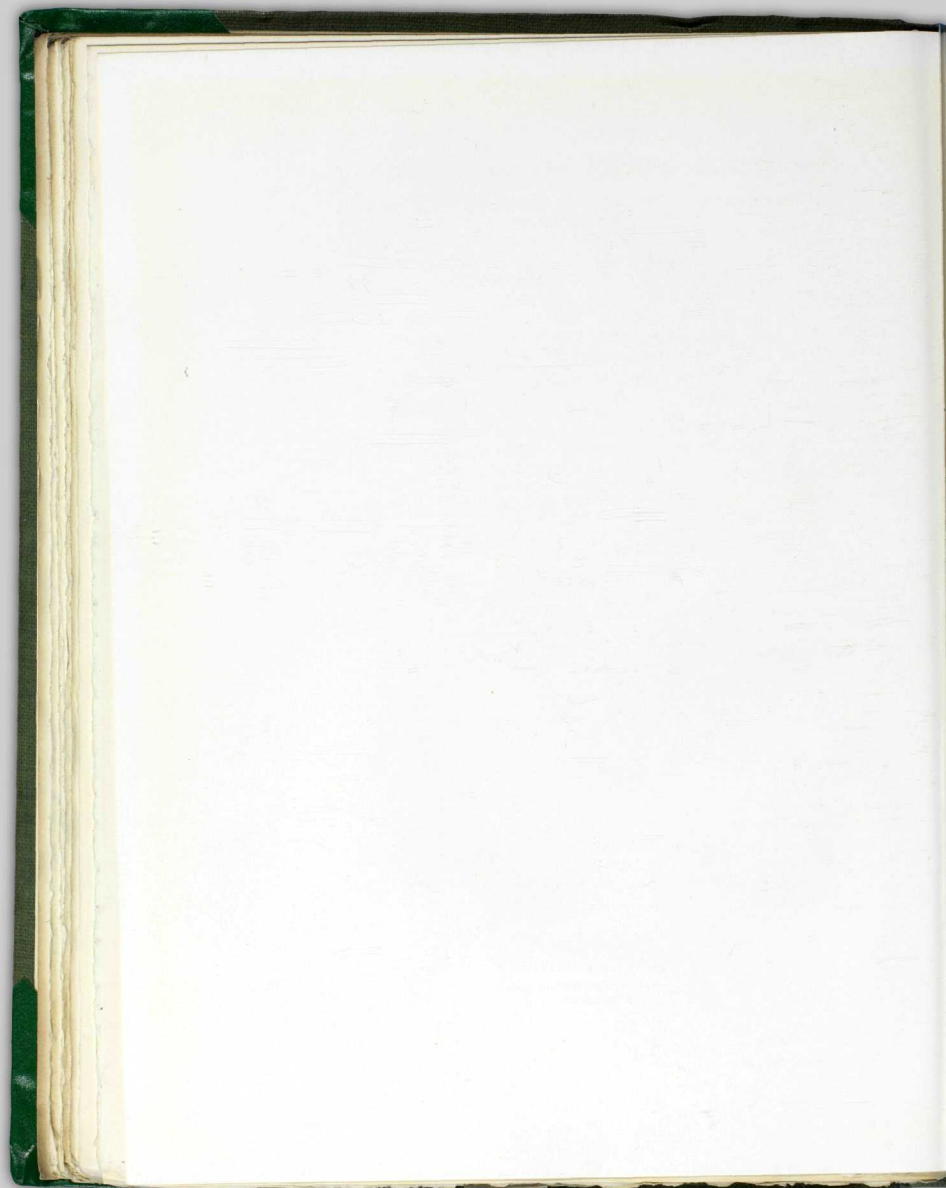
3rd June. . . . A stoutish gentleman was observed at the angle of the carrier below Sloane's Sluice busily engaged for an hour and a half, after an unusual bustle between him and his attendant. The first surmise of the distant observer was that he had captured a Monster. He was, however, subsequently seen washing and drying some of his undergarments. At last he proceeded slowly towards the Tent, covered with his waterproof cloak; and, on his arrival, stated that he had tumbled in, and was obliged to dry his clothes. The party were bound to believe that this was the *only accident* that had happened. At all events, he dined



"HE WAS OBLIGED TO DRY HIS CLOTHES."  
*Sketch of Sir Francis Chantrey by Sir Edwin Landseer, R.A.*



"HE HAD CAPTURED A MONSTER."  
*By Sir Edwin Landseer, R.A.*





this day without certain *inexpressible conveniences* which custom sanctions and decency enjoins.

Chantrey, thy genius bids the sculptured bust  
Renew the form that moulders in the dust;  
What rival artist e'er can hope from you  
To snatch the laurel to proportion due?  
You've justly earned the fame your name enriches,  
Who, true to Nature, dine without your breeches.

June 1831.—The first fish caught with Mayfly was on 25th May.  
... The evening whipping throughout the season was as bad as possible, scarcely any rise of fish taking place at the usual hour.

19th November. . . . As a general rule I am inclined to think that November is more certain [for sport with grayling] than October. When a rise of Grayling takes place at this season, it is impossible for any person who has not seen it to conceive the quantity of fish which these shallows contain. The red spinner with gold is the most certain fly; if a change is required, it should be from red to black and silver. E. B.

LINES BY ROBERT SNOW

When, worn with business and the cares of life,  
I flee the City's smoke and noise and strife;  
I drive a few short miles—then scenes appear,  
Tho' long well-known, that freshen year by year.  
For there, mid willowed water-meadows green,  
Our River winds along in rippling sheen,  
Thro' which the gay, red-speckled people glide  
Like living rubies in the silver tide;  
Which eager rush my well-thrown fly to seize,  
When strongly blows the soft south-western breeze.  
And there our Tent is pitched, the Angler's rest,  
Close on the margin of our much-loved Test;  
Where wholesome meals and social converse crown  
The sport we call exclusively our own.  
And there of friends I meet a chosen set,  
Such as the coldest heart can ne'er forget,

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Not skilled alone in Izaak Walton's art,  
 But in the loftier sciences take part—  
 Can tell the plants in mountain, wood or mead—  
 The thousand worms that on the foliage feed—  
 The wondrous tribes that 'scape the careless eye,  
 And how in May bursts forth the dark brown fly;  
 Skilful each hour their knowledge to dispense,  
 And sweeten Friendship with Intelligence.  
 My Friends! on days thus spent I love to dwell,  
 And feel, when absent, Memory's potent spell,  
 Which brings you back, and paints the very place  
 In retrospective views before my face.  
 This cheers my age, and bids me hope to hold  
 No common rank in yours when this warm heart is cold.

In consequence of the death of the Rev. H. Dampier in May and the resignation of Wadham Wyndham, Esq., M.P., and of Wm. H. Whitbread, Esq., M.P., Capt. Charles Yorke of the Royal Navy, M.P., George Warde Norman, Esq., and Lord Saltoun, were unanimously elected Members of the Club.

## WEIGHT OF FISH CAUGHT BY EACH MEMBER IN 1831

|                       | lb. | oz. |                     | lb. | oz. |
|-----------------------|-----|-----|---------------------|-----|-----|
| Mr. Penleaze . . . .  | 8   | 1   | Mr. Snow . . . .    | 23  | 5   |
| Mr. Beadon . . . .    | 16  | 7   | Mr. Jarrett . . . . | 23  | 3   |
| Ld. Saltoun . . . .   | 17  | 11  | Mr. Garrett . . . . | 23  | 11  |
| Mr. Chantrey . . . .  | 38  | 9   | Mr. Penn . . . .    | 29  | 9   |
| Mr. Popham . . . .    | 52  | 1   | Mr. Lovell . . . .  | 62  | 15  |
| Mr. Warburton . . . . | 55  | 3   | Mr. Barnard . . . . | 142 | 11  |

## Visitors

|                             | lb. | oz. |                       | lb. | oz. |
|-----------------------------|-----|-----|-----------------------|-----|-----|
| Mr. Walter Campbell . . . . | 22  | 6   | Captain Mudge . . . . | 4   | 12  |
| Mr. Sparrow . . . .         | 11  | 15  | "Eel pot" . . . .     | 3   | 5   |

|                                | lb.        | oz.       |
|--------------------------------|------------|-----------|
| Total in 1831—Grayling . . . . | 264        | 2         |
| Trout . . . .                  | 250        | 4         |
| Jack . . . .                   | 15         | 9         |
| Perch . . . .                  | 5          | 11        |
|                                | <u>535</u> | <u>10</u> |

## 1832

The Easter Meeting this year, 23rd April, was later than usual, and, though the spring was unusually backward, the grannom had been strong upon the water for some time previous to the Meeting. On the 23rd the weather was favorable, but a succession of cold winds during the rest of the week was adverse to the fly-fisher.

A cold, rough north-westerly wind on the 27th afforded Mr. Warburton a capital day's minnow-fishing in the upper water. . . . The hedges were scarcely green, and vegetation in general was very backward, but the fish were in very good season, probably owing to the mildness of the preceding winter. E. B.

In consequence of the death of the Rev. W. G. Garrett in January of this year, Captain Mudge of the Royal Engineers was unanimously elected in March to supply the vacancy.

26th April.—Mr. Warburton caught *with minnow* 8 trout weighing 18 lb. 14 oz.

## WEIGHT OF FISH CAUGHT BY EACH MEMBER IN THE YEAR

|                       | lb. | oz. |                      | lb. | oz. |
|-----------------------|-----|-----|----------------------|-----|-----|
| Dr. Franck . . . .    | 5   | 9   | Mr. Snow . . . .     | 7   | 2   |
| Capt. Yorke . . . .   | 17  | 14  | Mr. Lovell . . . .   | 18  | 15  |
| Mr. Beadon . . . .    | 32  | 2   | Capt. Mudge . . . .  | 33  | 15  |
| Mr. Penn . . . .      | 53  | 6   | Mr. Jarrett . . . .  | 56  | 14  |
| Mr. Popham . . . .    | 58  | 12  | Lord Saltoun . . . . | 61  | 3   |
| Mr. Chantrey . . . .  | 74  | 12  | Mr. Barnard . . . .  | 167 | 4   |
| Mr. Warburton . . . . | 153 | 12  | "Ditches" . . . .    | 11  | 13  |

## Visitors

| Total Weight in 1832— |  | lb. | oz. |
|-----------------------|--|-----|-----|
| Grayling . . . .      |  | 286 | 2   |
| Trout . . . .         |  | 486 | 3   |
| Jack . . . .          |  | 38  | 11  |

15th June.—The Mayfly season closed yesterday, having commenced on the 28th May. . . . The first general appearance of the fly was on the 4th June, when the fish took it greedily, which pleasing operation they never repeated on any subsequent day. The season altogether was most

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disappointing, such as almost to overcome the acknowledged patience of the angler. . . . There was a much greater show of fly than for some years previously, and abundance of burnt fly<sup>1</sup> returned to the water. . . . The water was very low in the river, which is always unfavourable to sport, and the moon was very bright after sunset, which is equally unfavourable for the evening whipping. E. BARNARD.

1833

Easter falling early, the Meeting took place on the 2nd April. The season being very backward, and the wind, tho' south and south-west, excessively cold, there was no fly, no rise of fish, and it was also too early for them to run well at a minnow. A few grannom were seen on the 13th, but there was not much show of it until the end of the following week. . . .

8th June.—Notwithstanding the backwardness of the season at the April Meeting, the very hot weather which intervened between that and the 22nd May, brought up the Mayfly on that day; on which, and the following days, until the 29th, the fish took it freely. . . . The evening whipping was remarkably bad, and bright moonlight for the first ten days unfavourable to sport.

[In this, as well as in preceding and subsequent years, the majority of the grayling were taken in spring and summer, when of course they were not in condition. But a few members generally visited Stockbridge for grayling fishing in the autumn, as in this year 1832, when 31 grayling were taken between 30th August and 3rd November.—ED.]

## WEIGHT OF FISH CAUGHT BY EACH MEMBER

|                    | lb. | oz. |                     | lb. | oz. |
|--------------------|-----|-----|---------------------|-----|-----|
| Mr. Norman . . .   | 3   | 5   | Mr. Snow . . .      | 6   | 4   |
| Capt. Yorke . . .  | 8   | 2   | Mr. Beadon . . .    | 14  | 3   |
| Capt. Mudge . . .  | 14  | 9   | Lord Saltoun . . .  | 31  | 2   |
| Mr. Penn . . .     | 32  | 1   | Mr. Lovell . . .    | 47  | 8   |
| Mr. Jarrett . . .  | 54  | 12  | Mr. Barnard . . .   | 70  | 14  |
| Mr. Chantrey . . . | 70  | 14  | Mr. Warburton . . . | 88  | 5   |
| Mr. Popham . . .   | 58  | 10  |                     |     |     |

<sup>1</sup> Spent gnat.





REV. W. G. GARRETT.  
*By Sir Francis Chantrey, R.A.*



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disappointing, such as almost to overcome the acknowledged patience of the angler. . . . There was a great greater show of fly than for some years previously, and abundance of trout returned to the water. . . . The water was very low in the river, which is always unfavourable to sport, and the season was very bright after sunset, which is equally unfavourable for the evening whipping. E. BARNARD.

1833

Easter falling early, the Meeting took place on the 2nd April. The season being very backward, and the wind, tho' south and south-west, excessively cold, there was no fly, no rise of fish, and it was also too early for them to run well at a minnow. A few grannom were seen on the 13th, but there was not much show of it until the end of the following week.

At June, notwithstanding the backwardness of the season at the April Meeting, the two successive visits increased between that and the 2nd May brought up the 18th of the day on which, and the following week, was the best one for trout in history. The evening whipping was remarkably hot, and bright moonlight for the first ten days unfavourable to sport.

[In this, as well as in preceding and subsequent years, the majority of the grayling were taken in spring and summer, when of course they were not in condition. But a few members generally visited Stockbridge for grayling fishing in the autumn, as in this year 1832, when 31 grayling were taken between 30th August and 3rd November.—Ed.]

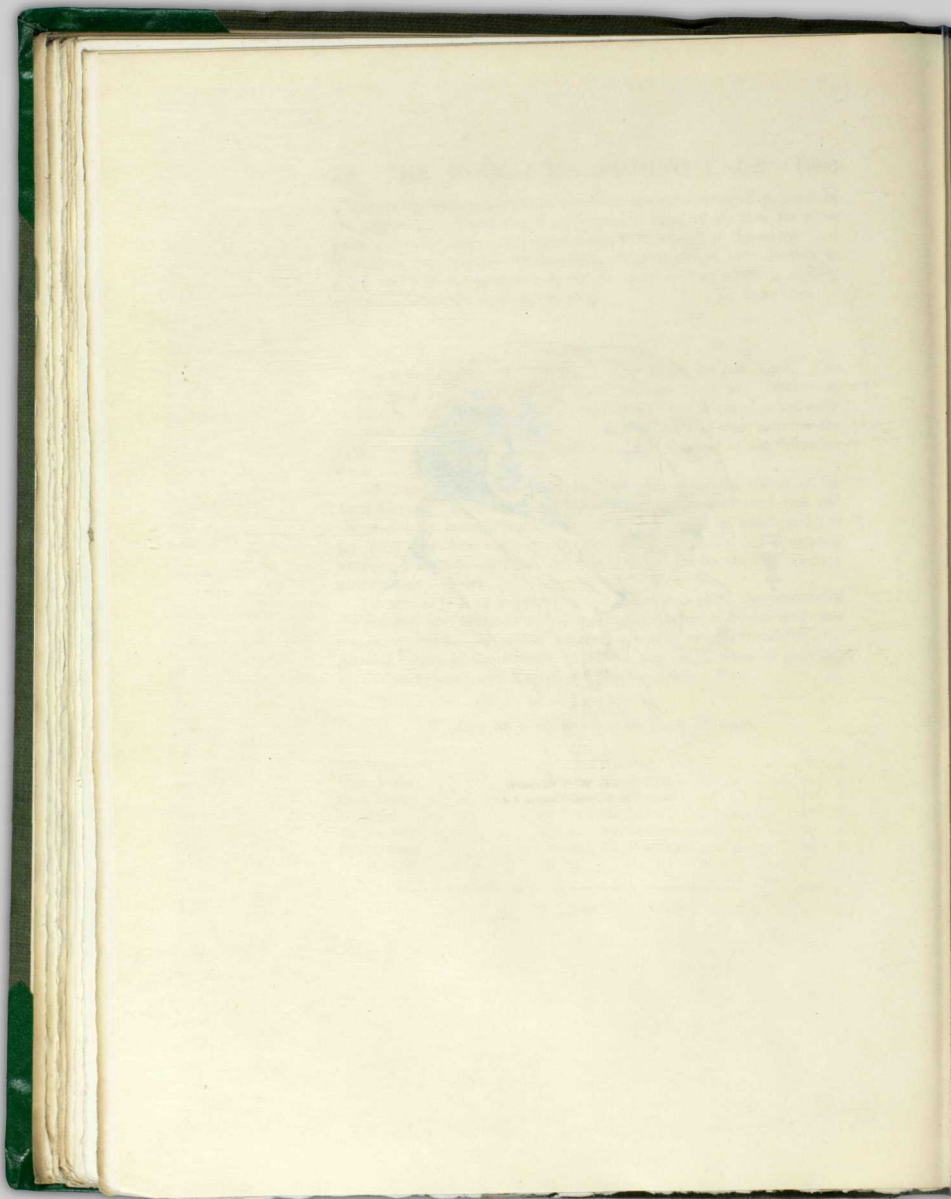
## WEIGHT OF FISH CAUGHT BY EACH MEMBER

|              | lb. | oz. |               | lb. | oz. |
|--------------|-----|-----|---------------|-----|-----|
| Mr. Norman   | 2   | 5   | Mr. Warren    | 6   | 4   |
| Capt. Yorke  | 8   | 1   | Mr. Beadon    | 14  | 3   |
| Capt. Mudge  | 14  | 5   | Lord Saltoun  | 31  | 2   |
| Mr. Penn     | 28  | 1   | Mr. Lovell    | 47  | 8   |
| Mr. Jarrett  | 54  | 12  | Mr. Barnard   | 70  | 14  |
| Mr. Chantrey | 70  | 14  | Mr. Warburton | 88  | 5   |
| Mr. Popham   | 58  | 10  |               |     |     |

<sup>1</sup> Spent gnat.



REV. W. G. GARRETT.  
*By Sir Francis Chantrey, R.A.*



*Visitors*

|                        | lb. | oz. |                         | lb. | oz. |
|------------------------|-----|-----|-------------------------|-----|-----|
| Mr. Iremonger . . . .  | 1   | 0   | Capt. Battersby . . . . | 1   | 2   |
| Col. Hare . . . . .    | 2   | 12  | Mr. Scrope . . . . .    | 3   | 5   |
| Hon. W. Fraser . . . . | 3   | 14  | Mr. W. Jarrett . . . .  | 4   | 12  |
| Mr. Jacob . . . . .    | 10  | 10  | Mr. H. Norman . . . .   | 19  | 7   |

|                            | lb.        | oz.      |
|----------------------------|------------|----------|
| Total Weight—Trout . . . . | 295        | 3        |
| Grayling . . . . .         | 212        | 1        |
| Jack . . . . .             | 36         | 5        |
| Perch . . . . .            | 4          | 8        |
|                            | <u>548</u> | <u>1</u> |

At the close of 1833 the Candidates' book stood as follows:—

| CANDIDATE   | PROPOSED BY   |
|---|---------------|
| Capt. Bertie Cator, R.N. . . . .                    | E. Barnard.   |
| Sir Hussey Vivian, M.P. (elected) . . . .           | Wm. Garrett.  |
| Hyde Parker, Esq. . . . .                           | "             |
| S. Blunt, Esq. . . . .                              | "             |
| John Cator, Esq. . . . .                            | E. Barnard.   |
| Wadham Windham, Esq., M.P. (elected; resigned 1831) | F. Popham.    |
| Francis Chantrey, Esq. (elected) . . . .            | H. Warburton. |
| Sir Humphry Davy, Bart. (dead) . . . .              | "             |
| Lieut.-Col. Bowater, 3rd Guards . . . .             | W. Beckford.  |
| Lieut.-Col. Lambert, Grenr. Guards . . . .          | "             |
| Lieut.-Col. Lindsay, Grenr. Guards . . . .          | "             |
| John Abel Smith, Esq. (elected; resigned 1830)      | E. Barnard.   |
| Wm. Sloane Stanley, Esq. (elected) . . . .          | "             |
| The Dean of Carlisle (elected; resigned 1830)       | Wm. Garrett.  |
| John Dampier, Esq. . . . .                          | H. Dampier.   |
| Charles Stokes, Esq. . . . .                        | F. Chantrey.  |
| J. Watts Russell, Esq. . . . .                      | "             |
| Wm. Whitbread, Esq., M.P. (elected; resigned 1831)  | "             |
| General Capel . . . . .                             | R. Penn.      |
| Robert Snow, Esq. (elected) . . . .                 | E. Barnard.   |
| John Jarrett, Esq. (elected) . . . .                | "             |
| Sir Charles Blois, Bt., for re-admission . . . .    | Wm. Garrett.  |
| Capt. E. P. Yorke, R.N. (elected) . . . .           | E. Barnard.   |
| Lord Lovaine . . . . .                              | R. Penn.      |
| William Bagot, Esq. . . . .                         | "             |
| Dr. Franck (elected) . . . . .                      | H. Warburton. |

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| CANDIDATE  | PROPOSED BY         |
|--|---------------------|
| Lieut. George Oliver, R.N. . . . .                   | E. Barnard.         |
| Captain Mudge (elected) . . . . .                    | F. Chantrey.        |
| Paulet Mildmay, Esq., M.P. (declined) . . . . .      | H. Dampier.         |
| The Hon. Henry Twisleton Fiennes . . . . .           | E. Barnard.         |
| William Peters, Esq. . . . .                         | Wm. Garrett.        |
| The Rev. George Rous . . . . .                       | F. Beadon.          |
| George Warde Norman, Esq. (elected) . . . . .        | E. Barnard.         |
| Henry Norman, Esq. (elected) . . . . .               | "                   |
| Lord Saltoun (elected) . . . . .                     | "                   |
| Walter Campbell, Esq., M.P., of Islay . . . . .      | "                   |
| Charles Shard, Esq. . . . .                          | George Lovell.      |
| Captain Scott . . . . .                              | James Franck.       |
| Sir Charles Flint (dead) . . . . .                   | R. Penn.            |
| William Scrope, Esq. <sup>1</sup> . . . . .          | Wm. Sloane Stanley. |
| The Hon. Wm. Gage . . . . .                          | John Jarrett.       |
| The Hon. William Fraser (elected) . . . . .          | E. Barnard.         |
| James Sparrow, Esq. (elected) . . . . .              | F. Popham.          |
| Robert Clutterbuck, Esq. . . . .                     | F. Beadon.          |
| Lt.-Col. Samuel Long (elected) . . . . .             | Ld. Saltoun.        |
| H. Delmé Radcliffe, Esq. . . . .                     | F. Beadon.          |
| The Marquess of Chandos . . . . .                    | E. Barnard.         |
| Sir Ronald Ferguson (elected) <sup>2</sup> . . . . . | H. Warburton.       |
| Lord Worsley . . . . .                               | "                   |
| Hon. Henry Liddell (elected) . . . . .               | Lord Hardwicke.     |

[Mr. Barnard has inserted here a very long dissertation on angling in general and Stockbridge angling in particular, which is printed in the second part of this volume. The following extracts about good and bad fishing weather should be read in recollection of the fact that they apply only to wet-fly fishing and blow-line fishing during the Mayfly season. The craft of dry-fly, which enables the modern adept to flout Phœbus in all his splendour, was undreamt of in the early years of the Houghton Club. Moreover, the members resorted freely to minnow-fishing, for which wind and cloud are favouring conditions.—Ed.]

"The difference between good and bad seasons arises from two causes, viz. wind and cloud from a warm quarter favouring the deception, and

<sup>1</sup> Author of *The Art of Deerstalking and Days and Nights of Salmon Fishing*, two of the brightest gems in the literature of sport.—Ed.

<sup>2</sup> General Sir Ronald Craufurd Ferguson, G.C.B. (1773-1841), M.P. Kirkcaldy Burghs 1806-30, Nottingham 1830-41. Served in India, the Cape of Good Hope, and the Peninsula. Twice turned Laborer's right at Roliça, 1808.





"I WONDER WHAT FLY WILL SUIT THEM TO-DAY."

*By T. Tuck.*



peculiar concurrent circumstances for which it is difficult to account, which induce the larger fish to quit their usual haunts and retreats, and boldly encounter danger in search of food.<sup>1</sup> The greater part of the larger fish seldom feed during the daytime on the ordinary food of the smaller fish. Large fish that are well known by those who frequent the banks of rivers are constantly seen, but seldom observed to feed during the daytime. But it must be well known to every angler that his memory can recall a few envied hours signalised by extraordinary sport, and remembered from the unusual eagerness with which large fish have been known to feed. These happy moments are, however, of very short duration, and there does not appear to be any general rule that will form a guide to reason upon or to account for this capricious departure from their ordinary habits.<sup>2</sup>

"It sometimes happens when rain comes after a long drought, but not always. I have known it to occur during the month of April during a snow storm, when, after a cold north-easterly wind became slack about noon and got due north. The snow fell in large flakes upon the water and the previous coldness of the wind was strongly contrasted by a warmer temperature as the snow came down. The trout rose at that time generally and took the artificial fly eagerly for about an hour, most of them large fish, in a part of the river where sport is not usually considered certain.

"A sudden and unaccountable instance of capricious feeding was witnessed by a gentleman fishing for jack in the month of March some years since at Shardeloes in Buckinghamshire. He was trolling from a punt, when a snow-storm came on with unusually large flakes. He presently remarked a general rise of large fish, as if taking a fly; and, being anxious to ascertain not only what sort of fish were so engaged, but the object at which they were rising, he lay down and suffered the punt to float with the breeze. He perceived numbers of jack taking the flakes of snow as they approached the surface of the water; and he felt satisfied that, if his fishing-book had contained any imitation of a large white moth, he might have filled his pannier with jack."

<sup>1</sup> The only "concurrent circumstance" which the dry-fly fisher postulates is a good rise of fly.—ED.

<sup>2</sup> Luckily so, else sport would forfeit half, or more than half, its fascination. What would fox-hunting be without the glorious uncertainty of scent; and how many of us would be eager to go a-fishing, unless for the pot, were we able to predict with certainty what would be the behaviour of fish on each or any day.—ED.

## 52 THE HOUGHTON FISHING CLUB [1834

[The most conspicuous instance within my recollection of fish abandoning their habitual caution and taking the fly madly occurred about twenty years ago on the Avington water of the Itchen. The Mayfly does not exist in this part of the river, and the trout are habitually as wary as any, and more so than most. It was a day of desperate down-pour, with a heavy thunderstorm and continual lightning close overhead. Only two anglers braved the storm, Lord Carmarthen (now Duke of Leeds) and Sir Edward Grey. Lord Carmarthen fished the upper water, from the Osier Bed upwards, and killed eleven brace of trout; Sir E. Grey fished the lower water at Chilland and landed a like number of superior weight. Both anglers declared that they had never had experience of Itchen trout taking so rapidly and well.—Ed.]

1834

*3rd February.*—Owing to the very mild season, the small jack in the river were sore from scratch-polling; which is the earliest spawning I ever heard of.

*23rd April.*—As the Town Clock struck eleven the grannom began to appear, and for ten minutes we had a *storm* of them, and a crowd of fish visible. The day continued cloudy and cold: nothing done after 12 o'clock.

*26th April.*—*N.B.* Enquire whether Penn or Mudge lost a bottle of champagne on the weight of fish killed this week!

### ORIGIN OF GRAYLING IN THE TEST

About the year 1816 Mr. Tate and Mr. Snow of Longstock sent John Haines their fisherman to Heron Court to fetch 25 brace of grayling given to them by Lord Malmesbury. Haines brought the fish in a water-cart, and rested them in the miller's trunk at Romsey. One fish only died, and the survivors were put into the River Test at Longstock. They were small, not more than 3 or 4 oz. each.

The Longstock Fishery in a few years became well stocked with grayling; but, as the stock increased, they gradually quitted that part of the river for the water below, and it is now (1834) some years since any have been taken above the town of Stockbridge. At the present time, the place at which the grayling most abound is Houghton Shallows and



EDWARD BAENARD COMPOSING.  
*By Sir Francis Grant, P.R.A.*





neighbourhood, about four miles below Longstock, a part of the river which appears peculiarly suited to the natural habits of this fish. . . . In consequence of a wish to increase the stock, no small grayling were killed until the year 1829; but in that year, when the numbers had greatly increased, the members of the Club more frequently resorted to Stockbridge late in the year for the autumn fishing, killing grayling of 1 lb. weight without reserve, from which they had heretofore generally abstained.

LINES SUPPOSED TO BE WRITTEN BY EDWARD BARNARD WHEN  
CASTAWAY AT STOCKBRIDGE ON 25TH JULY 1834

I am Monarch of all I survey,  
My right there is none to dispute;  
From the Town Hall to famed Willoughby,  
From the Grosvenor Arms to the Boot.  
Oh Solitude! where are the charms  
That Warburton saw in thy face?  
Better dwell in the midst of alarms  
Than reign in this terrible place.

I am out of Lord Uxbridge's reach,  
I must wander out fishing alone;  
Never hear Dixon's whispering speech—  
I start at the sound of my own.  
The fish that should watch for the flies,  
My form with astonishment see;  
They are so unaccustomed to rise,  
Their shyness is shocking to me.

Good Fellowship, Friendship, and Glee!  
Which guide all the hearts of our Crew,  
Had I but the wings of a bee  
How soon would I fly off to you!  
My sorrows I then would assuage  
While post-prandial Badminton sipping,  
Learn the best poaching schemes of the age,  
And the best fly for Evening Whipping.

54 THE HOUGHTON FISHING CLUB [1834

Houghton Shallow! what pleasure untold  
 Resides in that magical word!  
 With the fond recollections of old,  
 And the sport that its ripples afford.  
 But the sound of the Tent dinner bell  
 In the valley no longer is heard;  
 And the friends that I value so well—  
 Woe is me! they have never appeared.

Ye North Winds! that spoil all our sport,  
 Convey to my desolate breast  
 Some cordial and cheering report  
 Of good Mayflies to come on the Test.  
 Martin Smith—does he now and then send  
 A wish or a thought after me?  
 Oh tell me I have yet a friend,  
 Though a friend I am doomed not to see.

How I long for a change in the wind,  
 From that horrid north-east to the west!  
 But Corkran and Scott lag behind,  
 And no tidings I hear of the rest.  
 When I think of the Normans, and wish  
 They with Beadon and Carter were here,  
 My grief, as I cannot catch fish,  
 Is more than I'm able to bear.

But the lapwing is gone to her nest,  
 And Tarrant is down in his lair;  
 Even here is a season of rest,  
 And I'll to the club-room repair.  
 There is Sherry in every place;  
 And sherry—encouraging thought—  
 Gives even affliction a grace,  
 And reconciles me to my lot.

[From the ledger of this period it appears that the rent paid for waters leased by the Club was as follows:—



THE EARL OF HARDWICKE  
By Sir Francis Chantrey, R.A.

54 THE HOUGHTON FISHING CLUB [1834

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Resides in that magical word!  
With the fond recollections of old,  
And the sport that its ripples afford.  
But the sound of the Tent dinner hall  
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# THE HOUGHTON READING CLUB

William's  
Marsh Court  
Cowen's Road  
Post 200  
Chapman's Water  
Arnold's Rd

210

21

210

210

210

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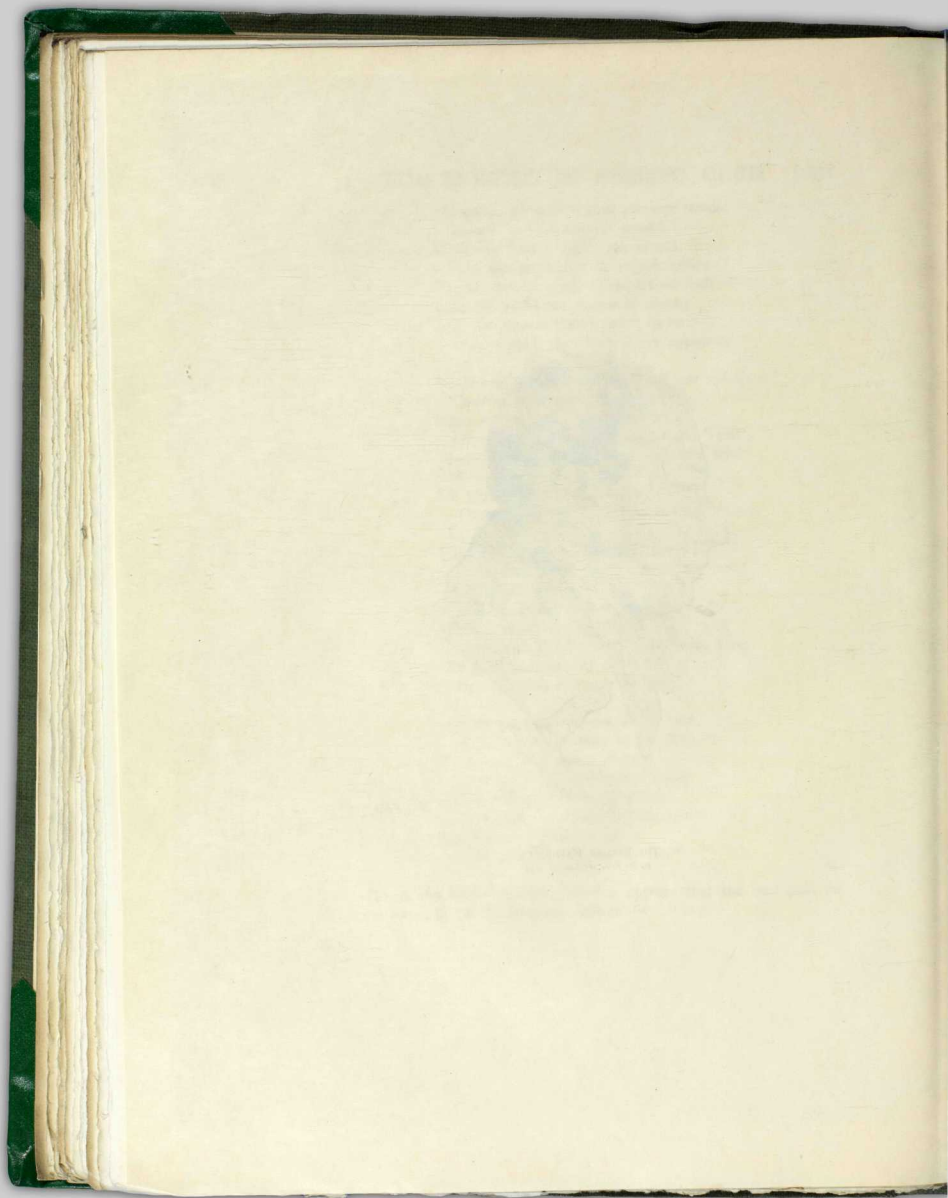
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*The Earl of Hardwicke 1835*  
*St*

THE EARL OF HARDWICKE.  
By Sir Francis Chantrey, R.A.



|                             |            |
|-----------------------------|------------|
| Wickham's . . . . .         | £80        |
| Marsh Court . . . . .       | 25         |
| Cooper's Mead . . . . .     | 10         |
| Peat pits . . . . .         | 7          |
| Corporation Water . . . . . | 5          |
| Atwood's, &c. . . . .       | 8          |
|                             | <hr/> £145 |

The wages of three keepers amounted to £53, 6s., Charles Elton receiving 14s. a week, Faithful and J. Elton 3s. 6d. and 3s. a week respectively. It is difficult to understand these very low wages except in the nature of a retaining fee, the keepers being remunerated by the anglers on whom they attended.

Other expenses and sundries raised the total disbursement for the year to £242, 6s., to meet which the subscription of the sixteen members was raised from £10 to £15 per annum. The enhanced value of trout fishing at the present time compared with what it was seventy-three years ago, may be estimated from the fact that for rights which sixteen anglers were able in 1835 to secure by subscribing £15 each per annum, in all £240, with an entrance fee of £10 on election, seventeen anglers now have to pay £90 each, or £1530 in all, besides an entrance fee of £30 on election.—ED.]

#### STOCKBRIDGE SYNONYMS FOR INDIFFERENT SPORT

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| Too much water.          | "They be taking the huck."                           |
| Too little water.        | No fish in the river (this is very general).         |
| Fish don't know the fly. | Sport worse than ever was known (also very general). |
| Fish glutted.            | Martins and swallows near the water.                 |
| Too many grayling.       | Came home too soon.                                  |
| Horrid grayling.         | Stayed out too late.                                 |
| Filthy grayling.         | Fish rose short.                                     |
| Water too much whipped.  | Hooked several fish, but they got off.               |
| Wind too cold.           | Weeds too much cut.                                  |
| Sun too hot.             | Weeds too little cut.                                |
| Too much wind.           |  |
| Too little wind.         |  |
| Held him too hard.       |  |
| Gave too much line.      |  |

1835

11th April.—Grannom appeared thick on the water.

17th April.—Much snow fell: hard frost at night.

23rd April.—Mr. Warburton killed a grayling on a minnow.

27th April.—Snow mixed with rain. Snow several feet deep in Dorsetshire.

9th June.—Gentlemen fishing with their coats off. Cross-lining practised by a few with moderate success.

1836

Sunday, 17th April.—Charles Elton broke the Sunday rule of the Club by catching a noble pike weighing 18 lbs. on a trimmer in the river between Radnor Shallow and North Head, which pike was duly packed and despatched per "Herald" coach to Sir Francis Chantrey with the hope that it may be the means of inducing him to return forthwith in company with Messrs. Penn, Warburton, and Co.

19th April.—The water is stained and so much higher than usual that the farmers' wives and daughters cannot cross the Sheep Bridge without getting wet over their shoes.

23rd April.—H. Norman caught a dabchick in a landing-net to-day.

4th June.—Seven rods killed 38 trout and 3 grayling weighing 64 lb. 6 oz.

1837

4th November.—Mr. R. Penn fished here one day on his way into Dorsetshire, and caught five jack weighing 27½ lb.

N.B.—Stockbridge not very lively: much shooting in Park Meadows. Maton is going to be married. Faithfull's pig is to be killed on Monday. He dies at sunrise.

[Note in another hand.] Is this the same pig which the butcher deposited one morning early in R. P.'s bedroom? Ask Mudge.

1838

5th January.—Hang the fishing! Mr. Penn began the New Year by catching one jack 6 lb. He afterwards fell into a ditch. Wind



"HE DIES AT SUNRISE."  
*By Robert Seymour.*





1839] THE HOUGHTON FISHING CLUB 57

N.E.; weather foggy and feasty. Perch apparently much disposed to feed.

16th April.—The first regular meeting of the Club this year was opened by Messrs. Whitbread and Popham and Lord Hardwicke. The day was damnable, blowing like Hell from the N.W. and as cold as sleet and hail could prove it to be.

30th April.—Considerable rise of grannom.

4th May.—Faithfull was in the meadows with a spade; but he had no heart, for Penn was in town.

1839

6th June.—Six rods took 18 trout and 11 grayling, weighing 58 lb. Largest fish, a trout, 3½ lb.

CERTIFICATE (for imitation !)

I, Richard Penn of No. 6 Whitehall, and occasionally of Stockbridge, Hants, do certify upon my word of honour that the 21 trout and grayling, weighing 43 lb. 5 oz., enumerated in this book as having been caught by me between 4th and 14th of June 1839, were every one of them taken fairly with a rod and line by myself, and none of them in any other manner, or by any other person whilst I happened to be at lunch.

Witness <sup>his</sup> JAMES X FAITHFUL.  
mark

RICHD. PENN.

20th October.—Mr. Warburton brought 54 perch from the Thames in a mackintosh water-proof bag and on the outside of a post-chaise. They were very much shaken on the journey; and about 9 were found dead on the following day in the Great Peat Pits, into which they were turned, and five more a few days afterwards.

13th October.—Mr. Warburton sent 134 perch from the Thames in mackintosh waterproof bags, by a single horse taxed cart, which performed the journey of 40 miles in about 4½ hours, and delivered 130 out of the whole number in a lively state. They were turned into the Great Peat Pits.

22nd October.—Dr. Billing killed 3 grayling weighing 6½ lb. with

H

## 58 THE HOUGHTON FISHING CLUB [1840

a fly consisting of—wings, cock pheasant's tail: hackle, golden pheasant's yellow hackle.

26th October.—Mr. Warburton sent 5 brace of grayling in mackintosh waterproof bags to the Thames in a spring cart which travels 10 miles an hour, of which number 4 brace survived.

5th November.—Mr. G. W. Norman and Mr. H. Norman took eight grayling weighing 10 lb. 15 oz. with Lord Saltoun's red spinner with grouse hackle.

1st June.—Mr. Popham killed a trout 4 lb. 2 oz.

Fifteen trout and two grayling of 3 lb. and upwards were taken during 1840.

1840

### ON THE RETIREMENT OF SAMUEL LONG, ESQ., FROM THE HOUGHTON CLUB

We chose thee, Long, to join our board—

A choice we ne'er repented;

Your course was short; but, still believe,

You will be Long lamented.

4th June 1840.

F. B.

### SONG FOR THE HOUGHTON CLUB

Oh I love to stray by the purling brook

On a dark and windy day,<sup>1</sup>

With my rod and my line and a well-stored book,

In the genial month of May.

I know the bend of the winding stream,

Where the great socdolager lies,

Where, screened from the glare of the noontide beam,

He watches for sailing flies.

<sup>1</sup> Bright sunshine, which has no terrors for dry-fly artists, was abhorred by craftsmen of the old school; but modern anglers willingly dispense with wind, upon which their forerunners greatly relied for success.—Ed.

THE  
LIFE OF  
WILLIAM  
PITTS



BY  
W. H. WHITEHEAD, M.P.

By Sir Francis Chantrey, R.A.

LONDON:  
JOHN JOHNSON, ST. PAUL'S CHURCH-YARD.

# 58 THE HOUGHTON FISHING CLUB [1840

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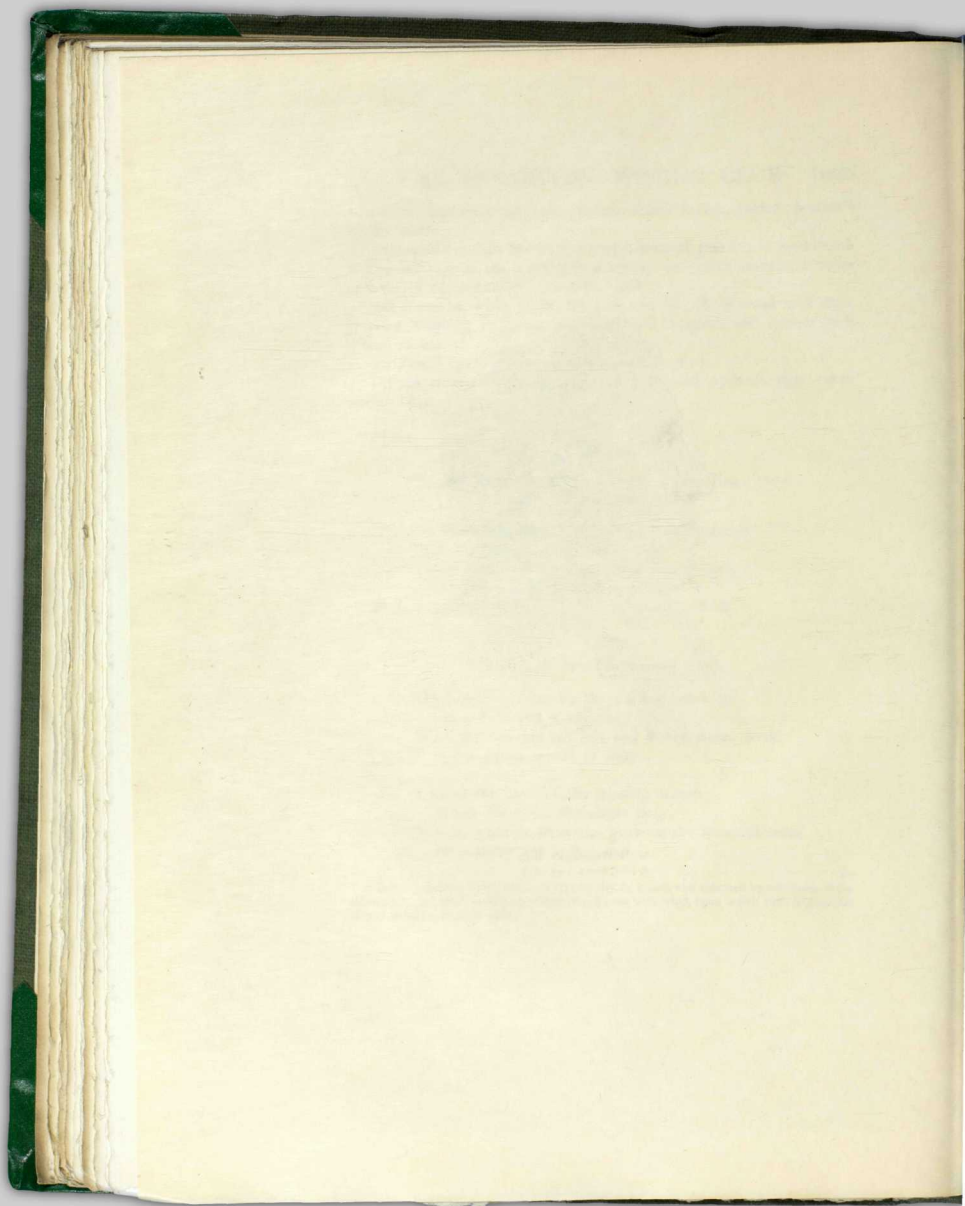
...the ...  
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...the ...  
...the ...  
...the ...  
...the ...

W. H. WHITBREAD, M.P.  
By Sir Francis Chantrey, R.A.

...the ...  
...the ...  
...the ...  
...the ...



Oh I love to mark the socdolager's dash,  
 His sullen plunge to hear;  
 To see of his side the silvery flash,  
 As he takes me, devoid of fear.

As vollied smoke before ranks of the brave,  
 Ere the levelled bay'nets meet,  
 So he heralds his charge by a rolling wave,  
 To angler's eye so sweet.

I steal to his haunt, and I take my stand,  
 My fly on the stream falls light;  
 The dash! the plunge! 'one twitch o' the hand  
 And the straining line is tight.

Away now he makes for yon weedy bed;  
 Quick! quick! or your labour's vain.  
 'Tis done in a twinkling: I've turned his head,  
 And he sails down the stream amain.

And now in the deep and weedless pool  
 Greek against Greek we play;  
 But with hand and judgment steady and cool  
 I surely must win the day.

As *kerr-err-err* I wind him in,  
 And *kirr-irr-irr* he runs out,  
 I cry, with a somewhat malicious grin,  
 "By Jove! 'tis a gallant trout!"

He sails through the deep, and the straining gut  
 Sings shrill as it cuts the stream;  
 He springs in the air to slacken it, but  
 A back-twitch mars his scheme.

<sup>1</sup> Here again sings the wet-fly fisher. Nothing in angling is more remarkable than the difference between the hurried dash of a trout at the sunk fly and his deliberate glare and gentle sip at the floating one.—ED.

60 THE HOUGHTON FISHING CLUB [1841

Now tamely he follows me here and there,  
Now turns his silvery side;  
He's mine! and a lustier fish, I swear,  
Of Test ne'er swam the tide.

(*Proveniant medii sic mihi sæpe dies! Amen.*)

1841

22nd April.—Mr. Norman caught a grayling, 1 lb. 3 oz., below the Sheep bridge, with a hook in its mouth which he had lost two days before.

22nd May.—Mr. Barnard killed 1 trout and 6 grayling weighing 12 lb. 13 oz. Mr. Penn (the only other angler out) killed 4 trout of 3 lb. 13 oz., 3 lb., 3 lb., and 2 lb. 10 oz. = 12 lb. 7 oz.

29th May.—Mr. Norman killed a trout 4 lb. 7 oz.

1st June.—Lord Saltoun killed a trout 4½ lb.

5th June.—The Mayfly season is now over, several days earlier than in preceding years. *Sic transit gloria mæce!* It may here be remarked, as some guide to gentlemen in future, that the iron-grey<sup>1</sup> proved peculiarly successful during the long course of bright and still weather.

18th August.—Mr. Penn and Mr. Norman arrived from London by the one o'clock train, having determined, in consequence of the precarious state of the harvest, to secure for anxious agriculturists a few days of that bright and clear weather which never fails to attend upon the labours of the Club. Taking to-day as a specimen of what is to follow it seems almost certain that their patriotic purpose will be fully obtained. There was hardly a cloud or a breath of wind.

[A printed card pasted into the Club Chronicle records the performance of Mr. J. W. Lassells, who, fishing with fly at Boen, in Norway, between 23rd June and 19th July 1841, killed, in 21 days' fishing, 216 salmon and grilse, weighing 2154 lb. On the last day he fell and broke his collar-bone after landing 36 fish (largest 30 lb.), but for which he says he must have taken 40 fish.—Ed.]

There were caught in 1841, 17 trout and 3 grayling of 3 lb. and upwards. Two of the trout weighed 4 lb. and upwards each.

<sup>1</sup> Euphemism for a landing-net.—Ed.

1842

2d April.—Charles Elton informed Mr. Norman that he had taken a great many trout in the eel weir—on one day seven, and seldom less than one or two. These fish of course he returned to the river, but it is hardly probable that the persons who had charge of the eel weir, before it came into possession of the club, were always equally considerate. Probably a great many fish were transferred from the weir to the huckster's cart, accounting, to a certain extent, for the scarcity of fish in the upper water. Several of the trout taken by Elton weighed from 3 to 4 lb.

Ingenious members of the Club are requested to solve the following problem. Assuming, as is the fact, that Charles Elton has taken 80 fish, weighing 80 to 100 lb., in 12 months, what is the probable loss of fish to the Club from the weir at Bossington, supposing that half of those taken there are turned into the river, the rest, of course, being killed or injured by the gratings.

25th May.—Mr. Sparrow killed a trout 4 lb. 2 oz.

30th May.—Eight rods took 33 trout and 6 grayling, weighing 82 lb. 2 oz.

This day, by a special grant, Mr. Penn has been allowed to assume as supporters to his arms, Moses Geary and James Faithful, to be borne and used by him and his heirs male, lawfully begotten.

1st June.—Mr. Warburton killed a trout 4 lb.

A greater number of big fish were killed than in any previous year, 20 trout and 4 grayling having been taken of 3 lb. and upwards. Largest trout 4 lb. 2 oz.; largest grayling 3 lb. 11 oz. A great stock of fish was left all over the water; it is to be hoped that they will do justice to the anxiety frequently exhibited for the rising generation.

The season was remarkable for the great quantity of Mayfly, which continued from 27th May to 7th June, and for the quantity of burnt fly that returned to the water.

The Mayfly at Westover keeps such very different hours from that at Houghton, that it may be proper to record the fact. From 7th June to the 11th inclusive, the wind being N.E., but not cold, and the sky almost cloudless, the fly at Westover seldom began to rise in quantity till about 5 P.M. The burnt fly, which at Houghton usually returns to the water from 6 to 8 P.M., at Westover did not return until after sunset, from



8.30 to 9 P.M., during which time all the trout seemed on the move, and readily took the natural Mayfly if held nearly close to their mouths (which, for want of light, it is not easy to do). While taking the burnt fly, they would not touch an artificial fly of any kind.<sup>1</sup> The burnt fly was, in fact, the *night* fly at Westover. The moral of this is that fishermen should not be too hasty in framing general rules from partial experience.

## TWEED

[In the following letter from Henry Warburton may be found some reassurance for those desponding anglers who may often be heard bewailing the decrease of salmon in our principal rivers. The "good old times" on Tweedside were days of "sunning" with the leister, and nights of burning the water, not to mention the wholesale destruction of kelts. Despite the increase in netting, and the frightfully drastic manner in which it is now plied with modern appliances—despite also the grievous pollution of many of the best spawning grounds, especially Teviot and Gala Water, the *autumn* run of salmon in Tweed is such as to make it very unlikely that one fishing near Kelso should have such indifferent sport as Warburton describes in the last week of October. There are some other points of interest to Tweed anglers in his letter.—Ed.]

"Kelso, 26th October 1842.— . . . The river here is in glorious order—the moment of the subsiding of a flood. But the complaint is general of the decrease in the number of fish, and of the quantity destroyed at the mouth of the river. I was out all day, this Saturday, and killed only one, of about 7 pounds, and raised two others. I saw but one salmon of good size (viz. of about 16 pounds) break water; so that for certain sport this is no longer the place to come to; though, in compensation for scarcity of fish, you have the most beautiful scenery in the island. You are landed here, per coach all the way, with an interval of 10 hours for sleeping, in 54 hours [from London] from the time of starting, at the expense of £5, 10, exclusive of coachman and food and bedding.<sup>2</sup>

"There is some water which is accessible to strangers, not having regular permission from any proprietor of water. One such adventurous

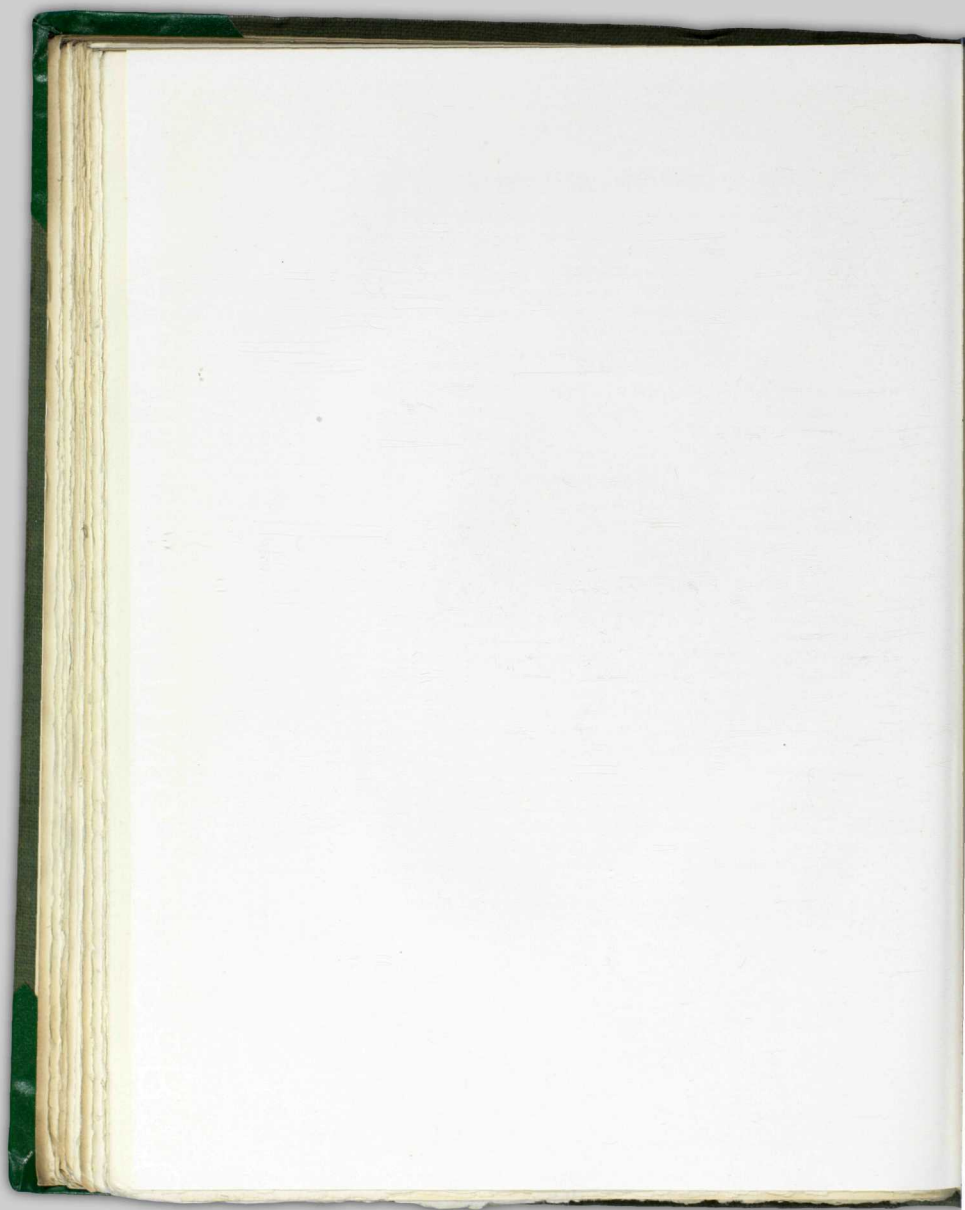
<sup>1</sup> Fished wet, of course, according to the practice of that time.—Ed.

<sup>2</sup> The journey from King's Cross now takes less than ten hours, the first-class fare being £2, 9s. 8d.



George Jones del. 1850

"PER COACH ALL THE WAY."  
By George Jones, R.A.



# 1843] THE HOUGHTON FISHING CLUB 63

stranger came here yesterday and killed a 7 lb. grilse in water to which the waiter of the inn procured him access.

"The trout of the size of a pound are most abundant, and are destroyed in great quantity at this time of year, when the water is well flooded, either with worm or salmon roe. One boy killed 9 dozen of that size with salmon roe on Thursday last, from which you may judge of the quantity.<sup>1</sup> The inn, the Cross Keys, is very tolerable—for a fisherman.<sup>2</sup> . . . From Morpeth to Kelso, the scene of the Border skirmishings, and 150 years ago one continuous, desolate moor, is now one continual line of good farming: The soil is so very superior to the average of English soil, that it very much compensates for the inferiority of the climate."

1843

CHARADE BY H. W[ARBURTON]

It very strange seems that two excellent streams,  
For trout fishing reckoned, are my first and my second;  
But if I go out without catching a trout,  
Or getting a bite from morning to night,  
Why then—truth to speak—I'm my whole for a week.

[The ingenious reader is invited to supply the answer.—ED.]

1st June.—Mr. Jarrett killed 7 trout and 3 grayling, weighing 20 lb. 10 oz.—Exodus iv. 2.

Twenty-eight trout and two grayling of 3 lb. and upwards were taken during 1843: largest, a trout of 3 lb. 15 oz.

Mr. H. Norman hereby declares that the 26 trout weighing 53 lb., and the 7 grayling weighing 14 lb. 9 oz., which stand against his name in the register for 1843, were all caught by himself with a rod and line and not otherwise.

H. NORMAN.

This appears to be the first occasion on which an example set by Mr. Richard Penn in 1839 has been followed.

R. P.

<sup>1</sup> The use of salmon roe has now been rendered illegal under the Tweed Acts, and the close time for trout, extending from 15th October till 1st March, applies to all Scottish waters, as well as the English tributaries of the Tweed.—ED.

<sup>2</sup> Most anglers who have lain at the Cross Keys in recent years would incline to pass upon it a higher encomium than this.—ED.

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Mr. Barnard declares that the 14 grayling weighing 26 lb. 1 oz. and the 24 trout weighing 50 lb. 12 oz., which stand against his name in the register for 1843, were all caught by himself with a rod and line, and not otherwise. And he further declares on the part of himself (and he believes he may safely do so on the part of Mr. Norman) that it was only because no opportunity presented itself of any other means of capture that he is able in the present season to make such a declaration. E. B.

4<sup>th</sup> Nov.—Mr. Norman took eight grayling, returning three fish of 1 lb. each to the water. The five he kept weighed 10 lb. 2 oz.

[Lieut.-Gen. Lord Saltoun, 16th Baron (1785-1853) was a member of the Houghton Club from 1831 till his death; but missed some seasons when called away on active service. Such was the case in 1843, when, Hongkong having been ceded to Great Britain by the treaty of Nankin in the previous year, Lord Saltoun was sent out in command of the troops. The following extracts from a letter written by him to E. Barnard may interest those who know Hongkong in its present state.—Ed.]

"HONG CONG [*sic*] 26<sup>th</sup> July 1843.

"MY DEAR BARNEY,—Your Scotchman came here the other day in great force, but I told him he must not take any great liberties with the sun here, or he will certainly suffer for it at this time of year. He has come a little too late, as a great many of the wild flowers on the hills here are over, and we are in such an infant state here that as yet we have no cultivated gardens. . . . This is the most stupid place mortal man ever was sent to. Hunting, which you can get artificially, is here impossible, for the hills are so high, steep, and rugged that riding there is impossible. . . . Game we have none, and no water for fishing. Hong Cong, being translated, means the Island of Sweet Streams, and we have plenty of them; but they are drinking ones, not fishing ones. At this time of year the heat is such that you could do nothing; but from November to March you can walk all day and not feel it more than an October day at home. Books we have none, so, having read those I brought out with me, I am reduced to Shakespeare, Byron, Scott, &c., but one can return to these very often.

"Last year, up at Nankin we had plenty of water, for we lived, or I should rather say many died, in it, and all were more or less ill. They brought us fish, a sort of carp; and one day that I rode inland, rather



further perhaps than was prudent, I crossed a small stream that, in Hampshire, would have done very well; but I examined it closely and only saw some fish like dace. However they have trout in the Island of Chusan, for I got some in the market; but they were white and not good, although a fair size—about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  lb. Things have gone on quite quietly here and the commercial treaty and tariff are settled, and the trade opens at the Port of Canton to-morrow. . . . As they do not object to relieve me, I am not without hopes of being with you next May.—Yours very truly,

SALTOUN."

# 1844

23rd April.—Mr. Jervoise caught a jack in the Peat Pits on a large fly with large eyes. Mr. Penn supposes this engine to be furnished with these prominent orbs so that something may be at hand to be damned in case of ill success.

24th April.—Mr. Dennis, the grocer opposite, has been out the two last nights, starting about 7 P.M., and each night has caught a trout above 3 lb. Mr. Penn thinks they are caught by spinning a Turkey fig.

29th May.—Mr. Popham caught three swifts with a red spinner.

1st June.—Mr. Norman killed a trout of 4 lb. A gentleman, fishing on the east side of Cooper's Mead, tried for a fish he knew of close to the sedge, and hooked what he supposed to be that fish. It went into the deep water and got under a weed; but, on being poked out, proved to be a dabchick which had taken the fly and was hooked in the mouth.

8th.—Mr. Norman caught two grayling, weighing together 4 lb. 9 oz., on one cast. . . . It was about 9 P.M. and nearly dark.

13th June.—It is a singular fact that up to this date only four fish have been taken with the Mayfly. River abnormally low.

22nd December.—Mr. Richd. Penn arrived here this evening on his way to Dorsetshire. He purposes to angle a little in the Peat Pits to-morrow; but, as perhaps he may catch no fish, he takes the present opportunity of intimating in a quiet way that on 11th November last, at Raynham in Norfolk, he caught jack amounting in weight to more than 100 lb.

23rd December.—Mr. R. Penn: NIL.

Fifteen trout and 6 grayling were taken 3 lb. and over in 1844: largest fish, a trout 4 lb.

# 66 THE HOUGHTON FISHING CLUB [1845-

They who have been in the habit of visiting Stockbridge at the time of the Mayfly only, may rest assured that dining in a tent by the riverside at that joyous season of the year, surrounded by one's kindest friends, is by no means the same sort of thing as sitting by oneself in a very cold room at the Grosvenor Arms on the evening of the 23rd December!

R. P[ENN].

[The records for this year, from 1st September to Christmas, are unusually voluminous, occupying many folios, but they contain little of interest at the present day, being chiefly detailed accounts of raiding the river with rod and net for jack, of which 319 were killed weighing 498½ lb. Mr. Warburton, M.P., presided over the operations, and it is proof of the ardour with which this man of many activities devoted himself to the interests of the fishery, that, when he left the Grosvenor Arms after a sojourn of several weeks during this autumn and winter, a mass of unopened letters and newspapers were discovered under the sofa in the Club parlour. There were killed by members of the Club during the season—

|                   |       |                       |
|-------------------|-------|-----------------------|
| 94 trout weighing | . . . | 197 lb. 11 oz.        |
| 62 grayling „     | . . . | 110 „ 2 „             |
| <u>156</u>        |       | <u>307 lb. 13 oz.</u> |

Six trout and one grayling of 3 lb. and upwards were taken.—ED.]

## 1845

29th April.—Three bursts of grannom of about 10 minutes each. They covered the river as if sown over it, and the fish, chiefly grayling, then rose abundantly; but they refused the artificial fly, and there was not wind to blow out. . . . The grannom appears to be at its height, ten days, at least, later than usual.

2nd May.—While I was leisurely crossing the Borough Meadow this morning on my way to the Peat Pits, I observed that there was an unusually large quantity of *feces bovine* on the grass. Mentioning the circumstance in familiar language to my friend and companion Mr. Faithful, we both agreed in thinking that it was a sure sign of good luck. The merit of this conjecture was soon afterwards proved by my catching a jack of 18 lb. I therefore respectfully beg leave to suggest

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that a daily register of the varying quantities of this interesting substance, as compared with the weight of fish caught on each day, would prove a valuable addition to the stock of information which the Houghton Club is supposed to possess regarding matters of similar importance connected with the higher branches of the Art of Angling.

R. P.

HOW TO DRESS A JACK.

STOCKBRIDGE, 26th December 1845.

DEAR BEADON,—H. Norman charged me to send you a jack. This morning I thought for certain I should catch one worth your acceptance. There was dark sky, brisk S.-W. wind, mild temperature and clear water—what other predicaments are there in the fisherman's catalogue to ensure success?

I ran only some small ones, however, and the only one I kept was of the weight of 5 lb. 15 oz., and I thought I had better send you that than none at all.

Do you know how to dress it? Roast or bake it of course; but the pudding—what of that? The ancients had a celebrated dish called the Trojan Horse. The horse was personated by a pig, and the Greeks in the inside by small poultry and delicacies of every imaginable kind, animal and vegetable. At the first gash of the carver, out rushed the thrushes and larks and truffles, &c. Your Trojan Horse is the jack, and the Greeks are to be personated by some oysters and some full blown mushrooms chopped small, and perhaps a little bacon, together with the other ordinary ingredients of a pudding.—Yours ever,

HENRY WARBURTON.

1846

1st January.—James Faithful and James Harris entered upon office as joint keepers.

There were caught in the Club Waters in 1846—

99 Trout weighing 201 lb. 14 oz.; average 2 lb.  $\frac{3}{4}$  oz.

73 Grayling „ 129 „ 13 „ „ 1 lb. 11 oz.

Four trout and four grayling were taken of 3 lb. and upwards: largest fish, a grayling of 3 lb. 6 oz.

In the weir were taken eels weighing 1511 lb., and the keepers took 345 jack weighing 360½ lb.

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1847

30th April.—A new page in the Book of Lamentations. . . . The swallows are very numerous this year, and it has been remarked that where they are particularly numerous near the water there is little chance for the angler.

2nd June.—Mr. H. Norman killed a jack 21 lb. : length from nose to fork of tail  $44\frac{1}{2}$  inches.

4th.—Eight rods killed 25 trout and 15 grayling weighing 67 lb. 10 oz.

LINES.

What doth Piscator ask?—A little span  
Of south-west wind and cloud—*then*, happy man!  
And happier thrice again when early June  
Brings forth the teeming Mayfly—glorious boon—  
Wherewith let ven'son<sup>1</sup> and champagne combine  
That trout may rise and fishermen may dine.

What "Boot" red honours in "War's" *tented* field?  
When such delights the Houghton meadows yield.  
Test! on thy votaries smile,<sup>2</sup> from shore to shore  
With myriad circling rises dimpled o'er;  
While caperers eke and condiments incite  
The piscine and the human appetite.

Ye London loungers! if this life ye try,  
Pleasures, unguessed before, ye may descry;  
Sick with ennui, you here may seek a cure,  
Find books in brooks, whilst grayling ye allure;  
Here, from your tedious *trottoirs* if ye fly,  
You'll learn that "All my hook"'s not "All my eye."  
But, lest a tyro too diffuse you deem,  
I'll leave to abler *Penn* the glorious theme.

<sup>1</sup> A most magnificent haunch,  
Gift from a fisherman staunch.

<sup>2</sup> Τέττιον κυριότερον ἀνθρώπων γένος.



Two otters frequented the Club Waters in autumn. One of them was trapped at Mottisfont.

Only two fish of 3 lb. and upwards were taken in 1847—viz. trout of  $3\frac{1}{4}$  lb. and 3 lb. 2 oz.

## 1848

15th March.—Lord Gage came down to fish the Peat Pits, and on 16th and 17th caught 14 jack weighing 83 lb. 9 oz. with a small red fly, ribbed yellow and gold.

To cook a pike properly, skin from head to tail and crimp every  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch. Hang the fish in the water. Plunge in strong salt and water at tip-top boil; if a good fish it will be done in five minutes, and be quite crisp.

22nd May.—Mayfly plentiful. It was first seen on 4th inst.

Three rods, Mr. Penn, Mr. H. Norman, and Mr. G. W. Norman, killed 14 trout and 27 grayling, weighing  $64\frac{1}{2}$  lb. Largest trout, 3 lb.; largest grayling, 2 lb. 6 oz.

5th June.—This day Mr. Penn fished at Wherwell. The farmer's cow looked very inquisitively at him and Faithful as they passed by; but the two friends having in former years escaped the danger of Captain Morgan's bull, despised the cow and walked on. Not long afterwards they discovered that the cow had eaten the sleeve of a waterproof coat they had left on the grass!

June 1848.—The following song was found by the riverside between Park Bridge and Horsebridge Mill, and is supposed to belong to some member of the Houghton Club or his attendant. It is evidently to the tune of "Daddy Neptune one day," one of Dibdin's songs, and is stated to have been sung with unbounded applause by the celebrated Signor Jarrett<sup>1</sup> at the convivial meeting of the aforesaid Club.

Daddy Faithful<sup>2</sup> one day to Dicky<sup>3</sup> did say—

"If ever I teakes to the dry land,  
Till the mayfly be over I'd live at Westover."  
Says Dicky—"Why, there's my pet island!

<sup>1</sup> Mr. John Jarrett.

<sup>2</sup> James Faithful, river watcher.

<sup>3</sup> Mr. Richard Penn.



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For oh! 'tis a nice little island,  
A right little, tight little island;  
Where the trout do abound—many up to three pound—  
Around that little wonderful island.

"Let them talk of Marsh Court, which is famous for sport,  
Or the point they call mine—which is high land;  
It's all bother and bosh about Warburton's Wash,  
Compared with this nice little island.  
For it *is* such a nice little island;  
Though small in extent is this island,  
There's plenty of trout, without walking about,  
In the streamlets round this little island.

"When the Park Stream is bright, when fair damsels invite,  
And offer, recumbent, to try land;  
Though it's very fair play for a sunshiny day,  
I'd rather be up at the island.  
For it *is* such a nice little island,  
I cannot help wishing 'twere *my* land,  
With nobody by, except Faithful and I,  
To see what *we* do on the island.

"When the Colonel<sup>1</sup> comes down by the railway from town,  
And the wind whistles sharp o'er the high land,  
From the perch I'll forbear and the Peat Pits forswear,  
For a chance on that nice little island.  
I wish I had money to buy land,  
For I dream of the trout at that island;  
Though at Black Lake I fish, yet if I had my wish  
I'd return to that beautiful island."

Says Faithful—"I reckons you'll come when I beckons,  
And *downt* lay asleep on the dry land!  
We'll show some fine trout when I lays 'em all out,  
Whene'er we come back from the island.

<sup>1</sup> ? Col. Pennant, afterwards Lord Penrhyn.

If the wind suits that wonderful island,  
 And you'll just stir your stumps on the nigh land,  
 All with bright crimson spots, and *none crimped in the lot*,<sup>1</sup>  
 We'll take hoame thirty pounds from the island.

"But the big fish be shy, so if you drags your fly  
 And *dount* stand where I bids on the nigh land,  
 We'll make a poor-out with our basket of trout,  
 And sheamfaced come hoam from the island.  
 Tho' sure, 'tis a nice little island,  
 A terrible snug little island;  
 For the trouts multiply, and no graylun be nigh  
 To destroy 'em near this little island."

As voyagers sad become joyous and glad  
 So soon as they chance to descry land,  
 So Faithful and Co. changed their faces of woe  
 When a summons arrived from the island.  
 Faithful said—"Tis a trump of an island,  
 If the Colonel would but make it *my* land,  
 I would no longer vex, but I'd brew double X  
 To drink to his health and the Island!"

[In a society of "men only," assembled in the avowed pursuit of pleasure, it had been nothing extraordinary had their humour occasionally found expression in language and allusion out of harmony with latter-day decorum. Assuredly, a sporting chronicle of the eighteenth century would demand free exercise of an editor's blue pencil before it could be laid before the chaste public of the twentieth. Among the MSS. of the Houghton Club, however, there is preserved hardly a line or a sketch which Dr. Thomas Bowdler himself would have wished to alter. Sometimes, when matters not convenient *virginibus puerisque* supply legitimate subject for mirth, their pungency is enhanced by throwing over them a veil of classical elegance, as in the following gentle raillery directed against a clerical member of the club.—Ed.]

<sup>1</sup> Crimping, practised by some anglers to enhance the quality of the fish at table, was disapproved of by others as spoiling the appearance of the basket.—ED.

*Extract from Grotius, "Liber de Pis: et Epis: et Nymphis."*

Nihilominus, si forsan Episcopus, piscator existens, ad prata Sombourniensia vadat, et illic nudas aspiat puellas arundines secantes, non licet Episcopum hoc loco stare et res tales bis aspicere, ne oculi episcopales, male pertinaces, befuzzleantur, et Episcopus ipse et Episcoporum ordo detrimentum capiat.

*Atque iterum.*

Si feminae duæ (ut de Penno viro celeberrimo fabula narratur) more Messalinæ et prava jubentes piscentem videant Episcopum et rete-portatorem, et ore rotundo vociferent—"Hic! juvenes, nos satis vobis ambobus habemus!" episcopum piscatorem non illo piscium genere se delectare, sed ad alteras partes cito properare oportet.

Lord Gage communicated the following recipes to the Club:—

*Dutch Sauce for all Kinds of Fish.*

Beat up 2 yolks of egg with  $\frac{1}{4}$  pint of cream,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  oz. butter,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  table-spoonsful of elder-flower vinegar,  $\frac{1}{2}$  spoonful of anchovy and a pinch of cayenne pepper. Put the mixture into a vessel, and let it stand in boiling water until the mixture sets.

*Sweet Oil Sauce for Salads, &c.*

Beat 4 table-spoonsful of sweet oil to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  of vinegar. Add pepper and salt according to taste.<sup>1</sup>

*Cream Sauce for Salad, &c.*

Boil two eggs for 20 minutes; run the yolks through a hair sieve; add 1 small teaspoonful of made mustard and a small quantity of pepper and salt. Work these together till they are of a smooth substance, then mix in one large table-spoonful of milk; add to the mixture 2 large table-spoonsful of thick cream and half a table-spoonful of good vinegar.

<sup>1</sup> This appears sadly random according to Italian opinion, which prescribes four men as necessary to make a perfect salad sauce—viz. a spendthrift for oil, a miser for vinegar, a councillor for salt, and a madman to stir it.—ED.

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13th July.—This evening four eels were seen at the edge of a weed in the castaway river, taking small gnats on the surface of the water.

18th October.—This day, at Raynham, Norfolk, Mr. Penn killed eleven pike weighing 123 lb., two of which weighed respectively  $28\frac{1}{2}$  lb. and  $24\frac{1}{2}$  lb.

1st November.—Mr. Norman killed a pike in the Peat Pit weighing 22 lb.

6th.—In taking leave of Stockbridge (as he hopes only for this year) Mr. H. Norman cannot but remark that great sport with the grayling, numerous as they now are, might be had by any gentleman who might visit our fishery in the autumn. The flies recommended are the Saltoun and a very small Wandle fly with white body and black wings.

There were caught in the Club Waters in 1848, 175 trout and 193 grayling. Six trout and 3 grayling of 3 lb. and upwards were taken; largest fish, a trout 3 lb. 10 oz.

1849

Query by Lord Gage.—Is it known that pike make about the very best salt fish? Fill eyes with salt and hang up by the nose for 12 or 24 hours.

9th June.—Wind N.E. Bright day: no chance of catching fish by blowing out; the distinguished foreigners were therefore requested to assist in catching some fish to give away. Signor Dragonette<sup>1</sup> was not very successful, but some distant relations of his belonging to the Polish family Landinettowski<sup>2</sup> caught the greater part of the fish. Fourteen trout and a grayling, weighing 25 lb. 2 oz., were taken. Mayfly over, and such a Mayfly as has been seldom witnessed and is not wished for again. [The fly, however, continued to rise abundantly at Wherwell till 25th June.—Ed.]

During the Mayfly season there were caught at Houghton with the rod 147 trout and grayling, weighing 300 lb. 7 oz. The average to each rod per day was  $1\frac{2}{3}$  fish, and the average weight of the fish was 2 lb. 1 oz.

At Westover and Wherwell there were caught by the rod 120 fish, weighing 266 lb. 2 oz. The average catch of each rod per day was 5 trout; the average weight of each trout was 2 lb. 3 oz.

<sup>1</sup> The drag net.

<sup>2</sup> Landing net.



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This season shows that there is a difference of fully a month between the *beginning* of the Mayfly fishing at Houghton and the *end* of it at Wherwell.

There were caught in the Club waters during 1849, 168 trout and 95 grayling. Eight trout and one grayling of 3 lb. and upwards were taken, the largest fish being a trout of 3½ lb.

There were taken 1594 lb. of eels, producing £26, 10s. 7d.

[The humour of the following essay may be deemed a trifle thin, yet it affords a glimpse of the placid recreation of our grandsires, not without interest in these days of greater haste and preoccupation.—ED.]

28th May, 1849.—Went to Southampton to see a friend for a few days; thence to Romsey, where I did hear of y<sup>e</sup> Mayflye fishing for trouts, and was informed that sundrie nobilitye and gentry from all parts did congregate at this pleasant time of y<sup>e</sup> yeare to catch y<sup>e</sup> trouts with y<sup>e</sup> Mayflye, and to divert themselves, and that they assembled at Stockbridge, some nine miles distant. This sport I much craved to witness, so I took my journey homewards through y<sup>e</sup> little village of Houghton, where I did encounter a most courtlye gentleman<sup>1</sup> of y<sup>e</sup> old school (descended, as I afterwards learnt, from y<sup>e</sup> benevolent founder of Pennsylvania), who invited me to remain with y<sup>e</sup> party for y<sup>e</sup> day. My consent to this civility was source of much amusement and edification to me.

Y<sup>e</sup> fyshers were all eagerness and full of hope. Their dresses were various; some, indeed, grotesque when heavy shours fell. They carried rods of amazing length, with silken lines of delicate texture, and bore little baskets, constructed after y<sup>e</sup> fashion of a salt box, strapped to their waists to hold the flies they were to bait their hookes withal.

Every gentleman hadde his attendant squire. One they called Faithfull, forasmuch as he rendered friendly piscatorial offices to his master, and never divulged to others what didde take place between them. Another was called Moses, probably y<sup>e</sup> second of that name whose cradle was made of bulrushes, wherein he had such rare occasion to observe y<sup>e</sup> habits of y<sup>e</sup> fyshe that he can take them out with his hands, whereat his master whistleth lively tunes and much rejoyceth. Again, there was one they called Tarrant, of homely mien, appearynge dull and stupid; yet they didde saye that when he didde espye a large trout in a dytche, he wodde be marvellous active and craftie in y<sup>e</sup> capture.

<sup>1</sup> Mr. R. Penn.



Howbeit y<sup>e</sup> day was too bright for the catching of Trowtes, wherefore my courteous friend told me he would fare to y<sup>e</sup> Peat pyttes, wherein, said he, was great store of large pykes. Yet was it too bright for y<sup>e</sup> jackes as well as for y<sup>e</sup> troutes: nevertheless I did espye many very great perches swimming close to y<sup>e</sup> margin, and did urge my polite friend to catch the same; yet would he not angle for them; for, as I dydde afterwards learn, he had dreamed of an Elysium over in y<sup>e</sup> west, whereof the gates were closed against such menne as wold wantonly destroy y<sup>e</sup> perch in the afore-said Pyttes. Moreover, it was towlde me that y<sup>e</sup> Perch and y<sup>e</sup> Jack therein were fattened by great multitudes of y<sup>e</sup> coarser fysshe caught in y<sup>e</sup> river and placed in these pyttes for y<sup>e</sup> Jack to feed upon. And albeit y<sup>e</sup> keepers could not capture the Roach, so craftye is that fyshe to elude y<sup>e</sup> nette, yet one of y<sup>e</sup> greatest warriours of this age, being well skilled in all arts of strategy from his youth upward, didde by skilful manœuvres baffle y<sup>e</sup> roache in their attempt to escape, driving them into their entrenchments where they deemed themselves secure, and thenne, by masterlye surprise at night, attacking them in y<sup>e</sup> dark, taking them all prisoners and bearing them in captyvitie to y<sup>e</sup> Peat Pyttes.

Returning to y<sup>e</sup> Tent Field, I didde see one Member wading on y<sup>e</sup> shallows, a dignitary of y<sup>e</sup> Church, as they did tell me. He was busie in castynge a bayte and drawing it to him near y<sup>e</sup> surface of y<sup>e</sup> water. And when I did ask what business he was abowt, they did saye that he was expounding to y<sup>e</sup> Trowtes that if they suffered themselves to be tempted of the Devil,<sup>1</sup> itte wold lead them to destructioun. I didde greatly marvel atte y<sup>e</sup> size of his baskette, filled with tackle of every descriptioun; pondering in my mynde of what advantage such superfluitie could bee; until I reflected that one so trulie orthodox could not even go a-fysshinge without adhering to y<sup>e</sup> Thirty-nine Articles.

Then to dinner in a Tent by y<sup>e</sup> riversyde at six of the clock, where good chear, with hearty wellcome, did await me. The repast concluded, they didde talk of fysshinge and y<sup>e</sup> sporte of y<sup>e</sup> daye; next, of kingdoms, to which, in y<sup>e</sup> present posture of political affairs, I was fain to listenne; but this topic was changed, I know not why, by one who introduced y<sup>e</sup> name of that celebrated lawyer y<sup>e</sup> late Lord Stowell. Of a sodeyn, to my astonishment, y<sup>e</sup> table was covered with pocketbooks, which, being opened, disclosed very many hundreds of Artificial Flyes, ingeniously wrought with various coloured wools and feathers. Many other curious devyses alsoe were dis-

<sup>1</sup> The Parson was spinning with a "kill-devil."—Ed.

closed unto me. One of the company onlie, a Country Squire from y<sup>e</sup> farre west,<sup>1</sup> didde eschew y<sup>e</sup> pocketbook, bryngyng forthe in lieu thereof a curiously kneaded ball of whitey-brown paper, whence after much difficultie from y<sup>e</sup> entanglement, he did select a Flye wherewith to persew his evening sport. Yet dydde they affirm to me that this Gentleman upon a tyme, when others would boste of the number of *pounds* weight they hadde killed, didde produce his fysshe by *stones* weight against them. Some smoked Segars, and one of them didde put y<sup>e</sup> wrong end in hys mowthe and then avowed it was a badde one and wold not light; whereat they all did laugh right merrilye; and whenas more wine was wanted, there was another of the company that dydde summon y<sup>e</sup> servyng-manne from a distance with voyce and energy truly surprysing.

Thenne to the sport again; when a gallant Colonel did wayde right depe into y<sup>e</sup> streame, until hys middle appeared to be garnished with water-cresses. And when at nightfall he had hooked a fysshe, which got off before he did get it to the banke, he did ejaculate most vigorouslie in phrase which, methought, savoured over much of his military training.

At half past ten of the clock y<sup>e</sup> companie did return to y<sup>e</sup> inn at Stockbridge to partake of tea; and then y<sup>e</sup> fysshe were all brought into y<sup>e</sup> room ranged on long boards with y<sup>e</sup> weight of each fysshe and y<sup>e</sup> names of the captors. Now some of these fysshe had great gashes in their sides, and their entrails hadde bene taken out; which thing they called crimping them; and some did affirm that after this was done, y<sup>e</sup> fish weighed more in y<sup>e</sup> scale than of before; at the which I marvelled.

And so to bedde, to dreame of y<sup>e</sup> varied scenes of y<sup>e</sup> day, and, on waking, to reflect that happiness is easie of attainment where all the companie strive to promote good feeling, and displaie anxiety to strengthen the bonds of friendship that unite menne to each other.

CADOGAN PLACE, 28th June 1849.

DEAR BARNARD,—The following fact regarding the natural history of the Mayfly and the *Sug*, or freshwater shrimp,<sup>2</sup> deserves entry in the Club book.

<sup>1</sup> Mr. Popham.

<sup>2</sup> *Gammarus pulex*. The case stated in this letter has its bearing upon the statements made in certain journals during 1908 by correspondents who attribute the disappearance of the Mayfly to the increase in the number of wild birds, owing to the legislative protection afforded them by the Acts of 1880 and subsequent years.—ED.



A MEMBER OF THE HOUGHTON FISHING CLUB.  
*By J. M. W. Turner, R.A.*



There was plenty of fresh Mayfly to be had at Wherwell this year on Monday 25th June, and I had collected two basketsfull of fly as it rose fresh from the water, on Monday evening, to serve for Tuesday's fishing. The bright days of Wednesday the 20th, Friday the 22nd and Saturday the 23rd put an end to the feeding of the trout on the fly, or rather, to their feeding on the surface of the water in the daytime. On Tuesday the 19th, a dark, blustering day, I caught with the Mayfly 10 brace, weighing 34 lb.; but on no subsequent day, to Monday the 25th inclusive, did I kill more than 3 fish a day. On Tuesday the 26th not a fish moved on the surface. Accordingly, about 4 o'clock on Tuesday evening I ordered Field to liberate his stock of captive Mayflies. Most of these, on regaining their freedom, fell or pitched on the fringe of cut weed which lines the margin of the streams in Hampshire at this season of the year, as you well know.

Presently, Field called my attention to the fate that was befalling the flies that had settled on the weed. Legions of sugs, issuing from the weeds, were devouring alive the bodies of the flies, leaving at last nothing but the wings. This explained what you often see on the water during the Mayfly season—numbers of the wings destitute of the bodies, floating in the water. I imagined that some bird had been the devourer; but the enigma is now solved. It is the Sug that is the cannibal.—Dear Barnard, yours,

HENRY WARBURTON.

#### TENCH CAUGHT WITH PIKE TACKLE

On the 12th October 1849, when the wind was blowing a hurricane from E.N.E. and bitterly cold, with snow and hail at intervals, I was in company with Mr. E. Hollingworth, spinning for pike in the moat of Leeds Castle near Maidstone, and hooked and safely landed a tench weighing 4½ lb. My bait was a small gudgeon, the tackle fine gimp, and the water as clear as glass, but with a very strong ripple on it. I could hardly believe my eyes when I first saw the fish, and supposed that he was foully hooked; but he was hooked in the lip, and I have not the least doubt of his having intentionally run at my bait. We took on the same day 98 pounds weight of pike, and on the following day 96 pounds weight; the largest pike weighing not more than 12 lb.

This is the first time I have ever known a tench to take a small fish,



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although I have known them to seize a small frog. Barbel I have taken both with a spinning bait and a live gudgeon, in the Thames above Maidenhead. EDWIN T. CRAFER.

1850

23rd April.—During the last three days the weathercock on the Town Hall has pointed west, whereas any credulous gentleman thereby tempted to the waterside is met by a cutting nor-easter. It is to be hoped that the borough authorities will *not* repair the error before the Mayfly season, so that anglers may at least take their breakfast in the pleasing expectation of a fine fishing day.

25th.—Wind S.E., strong and bitterly cold. All the swallows in the district seemed to have assembled, and were skimming in troops over the whole surface of the river. I never saw so many.

26th.—Mr. Penn and Mr. Yarrell went to Bossington, where Mr. Elwes had kindly allowed them to remove some gravel where the grayling had spawned. The object was to stock a river in Hertfordshire.

MAYFLY, 1850

The day was fair, with a cloudy sky,  
And the Fisherman said 'twas the height of the Fly,  
Though the fish rose short and shifty,  
And left off rising, if once you did try  
To tempt them. 'Twas June, and the year, by the by,  
Was eighteen hundred and fifty.

For famed North Head it was *the* day,  
Plenty of wind, and just the right way  
To suit the gentlemen fishing;  
But to different haunts they went away,  
And the spot was deserted, except, I must say,  
By Faithful, who sat there—wishing.

He rested himself on the hatch hard by,  
With countenance wan and his boots quite dry;

No solace from right or left.  
 And sorrow was manifest in his eye,  
 And he sighed and gazed quite vacantly,  
 As if of all prospect bereft.

Some secret grief possessed his mind;  
 He had no green basket stuck behind,  
 No landing net at all.  
 He watched the fish and appeared resigned,  
 As his body on North Head Hatch reclined,  
 But his heart was at Whitehall.

He thought of old times his sorrow to chase,  
 Of Morgan's ball, and the bets on the race,  
 And of larks with Sombourne witches;  
 And he reckoned his own a very hard case,  
 While counting the trout in a very snug place  
 As he know'd of in the ditches.

But heaviest sorrow must come to an end:  
 Of the near approach of a well-known friend  
 Gay tuneful notes gave warning.  
 To announce his name I will not pretend,  
 But he said (as in Hampshire dialect penned)—  
 "How ar re, Faithful? Good marning!"

He too by sorrow, 'twas so decreed,  
 Was driven at random through the mead,  
 Like a man that had lost his head.  
 He had got as his squire, to suit his need,  
 One of the far-famed Gulliver breed,  
 For Moses was ill and a-bed.

He hinted to Faithful how great was his wish  
 To send to a friend at Bath some fish,  
 But he couldn't see anything moving.  
 So Faithful looked at him, as much as to say—  
 "Mayhap it's because you don't work the right way"—  
 His ignorance thus reproving.

Then he took him far from the haunts of men,  
 And soon got a trout of two pounds ten,  
 And another of three pounds three.  
 And Gulliver whispered—"I very well ken  
 For *this* Mayfly, at least, we shan't see Mr. Penn,  
 Or he'd never have showed these to we."

Rejoicing in spirit away they went,  
 And towards the meadow where stood the Tent  
 They pursued their peregrinations.  
 And Gulliver's face beam'd blithe and jolly,  
 While his master kept whistling "Nix-my-dolly,"  
 With many fine variations.

And after dinner he freely confessed  
 That though Roe and John Elton and all the rest  
 Had many a trick in store,  
 And Moses he knew as a good man and true,  
 Yet with all his experience he never knew  
*What poaching meant before.*

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#### FISHING LINES

Seeking to jot down my quota of history,  
 What do I find but a gap and a mystery?  
 On Friday and Saturday,  
 At least on the latter day,  
 Mr. Norman fished here,  
 But no annals appear!  
*Hiatus est, valde defendus;*  
 For the full true report  
 Of this day of—O—Sport,  
 Mr. N. has omitted to send us.  
 But in fact I've heard say  
 That the famed "Iron grey,"<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The landing net.—ED.

(In *straits* ever prompt to befriend us  
 When at fault for a fly)  
 Was a *Faithful* ally  
 And prevented a failure tremendous.

Each size and each colour in vain had been tried,  
 And "Saltoun" and "Spinner" alike were defied,  
 The line (like old Hudson's) would bring nothing back,  
 And remained too (like his) most provokingly slack.  
 So when Mr. N. had arrived at a terminus,  
 And the only thing left was just homeward to stir—*minus*,  
 Thus concluding the process of drawing a blank,  
 (*Check* it would have been) came a *run on the bank*,  
 By a couple of pounds most successfully met;  
 'Twas a chase, and a race, and a trifling bet,  
 And it had all the air of a queerish transaction—  
 What the *net* receipts were I won't vow to a fraction,  
 But I know that the produce gave full satisfaction;  
 And the loser and winner  
 Went to Stoneham for dinner.

6th June.—Seven rods killed 37 trout and 4 grayling weighing 84½ lb.:  
 largest trout 3¾ lb.

26th October.—A trout weighing 6 lb. 10 oz. was caught on a trimmer  
 set in the Old River for jack.

There were caught in the Club Waters in 1850—  
 201 trout and 142 grayling. Largest trout 6 lb. 10 oz. (on a  
 trimmer); largest grayling 3 lb. 10 oz.

## 1851

3rd June.—Seven rods took 38 trout and 9 grayling weighing  
 89 lb. 10 oz.

4th.—Mr. G. Norman killed a trout of 2 lb. 10 oz. with a hook in  
 its mouth and a length of gut lost on the previous morning.



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There were caught in the Club waters in 1851—

263 trout and 100 grayling. Largest trout  $3\frac{1}{2}$  lb.: largest grayling  $3\frac{1}{4}$  lb.

Six trout and three grayling of 3 lb. and upwards were taken.

### 1852

23<sup>rd</sup> January.—Mr. Penn killed 12 jack in the Peat Pits weighing 102 lb. 5 oz.

I have lately entered the 69th year of my age, and although, by the blessing of God, I am what is usually called a hearty old fellow (at least in moderate weather), still it must be confessed that, when the wind blows hard, I am not so firm on my pins as I used to be. Now it so happened that, after hooking one of these fish, my foot slipped and I fell, luckily *into* the boat and not *out of it*. The fish very unfairly took advantage of me while I was down, breaking the tackle and getting away with about 15 yards of line. He afterwards contrived to hang himself up in the rushes, whence he was taken by young Faithful early next morning.

R. P.

4<sup>th</sup> June.—Nine rods took 32 trout and 13 grayling weighing 88 lb. 9 oz.

The following rule will give the weight of all trout very nearly.

Length in inches  $\times$  (girth)<sup>2</sup>  $\times .01822$ .

22<sup>nd</sup> June.—Mr. Warburton caught 21 trout at Wherwell with the natural Mayfly, and, in applying the above formula, the result in every case, except three, was found to be within an ounce of the actual weight. In the three exceptions, it was obvious that errors had been committed either in weighing or measuring. Example from the greatest and least of the above 21 trout.

(1) Length,  $19\frac{1}{2}$  inches; girth, 11 inches: yielding by formula, weight, 2 lb. 11 oz.: weight by spring steelyard, 2 lb. 10 oz.

(2) Length,  $12\frac{3}{4}$  inches; girth,  $8\frac{1}{2}$  inches: yielding by formula, weight,  $15\frac{3}{4}$  oz.: weight by spring steelyard, 1 lb.

The Mayfly fishing in the Houghton Water afforded this year the following result, as nearly as the entries enable one to ascertain them:



## 1852] THE HOUGHTON FISHING CLUB 83

256 trout and grayling were caught weighing 482 lb. 12 oz., by 66 rods, each employed for one day = average 4 fish per rod per day, weighing  $7\frac{1}{2}$  lb.

The Westover and Wherwell fisheries yielded 254 trout weighing 468 lb. to 20 rods, employed each for one day = average  $12\frac{7}{10}$  fish per rod per day, weighing 23 lb. 3 oz.

The Mayfly at Wherwell lasted 12 days longer than at Houghton.

H. W[ARBURTON].

### A PIKE STORY

J. BARNARD. (*Date somewhere in the Forties or Fifties*)

... Now for a story piscatorial, such as Shepherd<sup>1</sup> never saw before, or anything near it. To begin—Down at the Pool by 12—not a trout would run: twisted my ribs with throwing, till they were nearly off, and over and over again in the flushes and shallows and mill. Went to your jack side by the willows—got a run—found a heavy fish—gut and gear soon bit off. A little after, evidently got hold of the same animal again; played him with the lightest hand some time, and at last softly came the hooks away, without bait being apparently touched, and nothing whatever damaged. Went away to flushes, and then back for jack: got hold of a fellow as heavy as a trunk of a tree (evidently the same old friend); could never bring him near the top, and after certain gentle fighting he went to the deepest part of the water, and there remained *fixed*. No twitching would move him, and pulling would have been destruction. At length Shepherd proposed and got the punt, and in it we went; but I must tell you, before we got to his stronghold he exhibited his proportions by a jump a yard and a half of length. When in the punt, we could move him off by the pole, and away he went towards the shallows and willow side of the Pool. When there, I lightly tried to bring him towards the boat and net; but in an instant, when he found himself thus circumstanced, he rushed off again to the deep, and there lay like a log. Of course (and very *ticklish* work it was) we displaced him again, and occasionally, when opportunity offered, turned him by heading him from his place of refuge; but this could very seldom be done, and thus for *more than one hour and a half* did Shepherd and I fight him. At last, when lying loggish 15 feet

<sup>1</sup> The fisherman.

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down, Shepherd was obliged to put the longest pole close to him. Off he rushed, and, oh sad! when about a rod and a half's length [away], up came the gut soft—and short. I was not conscious of giving him the smallest check by my left hand, through which the line passed; and I kept line ready; and consequently suppose either he bit or rubbed off the gut, or got it round some piece of wood at the bottom. The incessant working in the line I mention was no joke to either Shepherd or myself. I judge him from 20 to 30 lb. What a triumph had I caught him! but I know not, with single gut, how it could be done, for he would not keep moving so as to be tired and tractable.

SONG

*For the Meeting of the Houghton Club*

All hail to my Club of good fellows!  
 Again now so happily met;  
 Old Izaak himself couldn't tell us  
 The thing that we're wanting in yet.

For skill—there's Old Barney<sup>1</sup> would shame him,  
 For three fish to one he would kill;  
 And for dry wit and humour—who'll name him  
 Beside of our own Grey Goose Quill?<sup>2</sup>

And then, there's our chaplain, good B—d—n<sup>3</sup>  
 For piety, meekness and lore  
 Would match, if he couldn't exceed him;  
 And what can one ask of him more?

Nor yet is this all we can boast of,  
 For each gallant Service provides  
 A hero to grace us, and most of  
 The Civic fame-sources besides.

<sup>1</sup> Edward Barnard.

<sup>2</sup> R. Penn.

<sup>3</sup> Canon Beadon.

There's W—rb—t—n's<sup>1</sup> popular glory,  
 And N—rm—n's<sup>2</sup> the great financier,  
 And P—ph—m,<sup>3</sup> that loyal old Tory,  
 And J—rr—tt's<sup>4</sup> right jovial cheer.

But be it or soldier or sailor,  
 Or Whig, Tory, Peelite or Rad,  
 Among us there isn't a railer,  
 Or one that to see we ar'n't glad.  
 Then hail to our Club of Good Fellows, &c.

Alas when I turn to the merits  
 Of those who have left us behind,  
 Of Chantrey's sweet art and light spirits  
 And Wollaston's science and mind—

Where's the bland wit whose bright conversations  
 Could win from the saddest a smile?  
 Where the pencil, whose apt illustrations  
 Illumined our pages the while?

Where's he, to whom Nature revealing  
 The dark hidden depths of her lore,  
 Still left him as childlike in feeling—  
 As humble, free, kind as before?

A sigh will escape as I think on't,  
 A sigh both of pride and regret;  
 But—pooh! Heart e'en then was the pink on't,  
 And that we have plenty of yet!

To their memory then let us drink, boys;  
 Since now we can't drink to their health,  
 And in grace to the toast let us think, boys,  
 That Heart should be ever our wealth.  
 Then hail to the Club of Good Fellows, &c.

<sup>1</sup> Henry Warburton, M.P.    <sup>2</sup> G. W. Norman.    <sup>3</sup> F. Popham.    <sup>4</sup> J. Jarrett.

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There were caught in the Club waters in 1852, 212 trout and 106 grayling, one trout and three grayling weighing 3 lb. and upwards. Largest fish, a grayling  $3\frac{1}{4}$  lb.

YARRELL to R. PENN.

"Ryder, St. James, 14th Oct. 1852. . . . I now send you my record of large British trout, migratory and non-migratory.

"A female sea-trout, caught in Sandstill Fishery at the mouth of the Tweed . . . in July 1840. Length 37 inches, girth 22 in., weight  $24\frac{1}{2}$  lb. A beautiful fish, in fine condition. It passed into the possession of the then Lord Mayor of London, Sir Ch. Marshall, and by him sent as a present to the Rev. Dr. James of Peterboro'."

[Yarrell does not say whether this fish was a Tweed sea-trout, which is the bull-trout (*Salmo cambricus* or *eriox*) of other rivers, or a salmon trout (*S. trutta*) which on Tweedside is called the whitling. If, as is probable, it was a bull-trout, it may be feared that the Rev. Dr. James was disappointed in the quality of his prize. The bull-trout at its best makes an indifferent dish, and one may conceive that this one was *not* at its best after a journey by coach to London and thence to Peterborough during the dog days. The fish must have been four or five days old by the time it reached its destination!—ED.]

"Sir Robert Peel's fish, a male sea-trout, caught in the Tame near Drayton Manor in Nov. 1846. Length 40 in., weight 21 lb. Presented to Professor Owen. The skeleton preserved, prepared, and mounted, College of Surgeons."

[This is a most interesting record. The fish, probably *S. cambricus* or *eriox*, a bull-trout, had run up the Thames to spawn, and of course was quite unseasonable at the time. This was very shortly before gas refuse and other pollution finally closed the river to migratory *Salmonide*.—ED.]

"In the autumn of 1849 (Sept.) Lord Malmesbury sent up to me to have them preserved for him several large lake trout—the *Salmo ferox* of authors—caught by trolling and spinning in Loch Arkaig, Inverness-shire—weights not noted. The largest, a female, was 33 inches long: the next, a female also, 32 inches: the third a male, 31 inches. Two or three others were smaller. They were very dark in colour: their flesh white and tasteless."

[These trout of Loch Arkaig are well known to me. The largest I



have caught weighed 17 lb., but my brother-in-law, Mr. Johnston Stewart of Physgill, killed one 23 lb. Anglers are slow to drop the specific distinction of *ferox*, but ichthyologists are now all but unanimous in recognising these great lake trout as common brown trout grown large. Highly organised vertebrates, such as man, and other mammals and birds, and invertebrates, such as most insects, conform to a standard of average stature and weight, modified more or less by conditions of nutriment, environment, &c. But the Salmon Family, which occupies a very low position in the scale of vertebrates, is of a more plastic nature and owns no standard of size. Consequently, the same brook trout which, in a Highland burn, might never attain a weight of more than two or three ounces, may be so successful in finding food in a great sheet of water like Loch Arkaig as to predominate over all competitors and become scarcely recognisable as a member of its own species. Yarrell speaks of these Arkaig fish as dark externally and white-fleshed; but in June and July they are beautifully bright and well-shaped, their flesh being redder than that of salmon. They are then not to be distinguished from the trout which are taken every year at Broadlands, in the deep stream below Romsey Bridge, which I have seen weighing as much as 13 lb.—Ed.]

"A male fresh-water non-migratory trout from Lough Neagh, near Belfast, was cooked for a party at Brooke's Club House, St. James's St., on the 13th Oct. 1852. The length 40 in.; the girth 20 in.: the weight 30 lb. This fish was beautifully spotted; the flesh of good colour and flavour. Leadbeater has the skin to preserve. These are the largest British trout I have seen, but I have had in my possession lake trout a little larger from Sweden. Sir Thomas M. Wilson of Charlton in the summer of 1840 went in his yacht up the Gota river beyond Göttenburg to the Falls of Trollhatten, and brought back with him the skins of several large trout caught by himself and friends, spinning with bleak, in Lake Wenern, situated above the falls referred to. The largest was 42 in. long and weighed 34 lb., the next 32 lb., the next to that 27 lb. . . . There are still larger trout in the large lakes of the northern part of North America. Sir John Richardson saw one that weighed 50 lb., and was told that others had been taken of still greater weight."

[The American fish referred to of course were not the European *S. fario*, but probably *S. confinis*, or other species. In size, however, they have rivals in the *S. fario* of some European lakes, the great Lake of Skodra, for example, on the confines of Albania and Montenegro, where



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the trout feed on *scoranza*, a species of bleak, and when full-fed, run up the Moratza River in spring just as salmon leave the sea when they are gorged with herrings. When I was at Podgaritza in April 1906, the Moratza was still too turbid with glacier mud for fair fishing; but the natives were catching these trout with bamboo poles and bunches of lob-worms. The largest taken during our stay was reported as weighing 20 kilos (40 lb.). I did not see it, but we bought a medium-sized fish of 12 lb. and found it excellent, hardly to be distinguished from spring salmon. The following letter to Mr. Barnard from a correspondent not identified deals with trout of a similar class in Italy.—ED.]

"*Faido, 20th Aug. 1850.* . . . We have been ascending the course of the Ticino ever since we left the head of the Lago Maggiore this morning at Magedino. At 4 or 5 miles below this place where the river is a mere mountain stream, boiling and foaming among rocks and rapids, we saw by the side of the road a man who had just caught a trout weighing over 8 lb., besides one smaller. The fish was well shaped, grey, and but little spotted. He offered it to us at 2 franks the lb. of 35 oz., and on our refusal to buy, sent it to our innkeeper, who gave us a portion boiled for supper. The flesh was very pink, but being ill-dressed, not particularly good. It was a female fish, and full of spawn.

"We saw the tackle used. It was a long bamboo rod with a pliant top, line very coarse, bait a grasshopper. It puzzled me to know how such large trout (some being caught of 30 lb.) could be landed without net or gaff in so rapid and rocky a stream. I was told both by our driver and by our innkeeper that this was usually managed in the following manner. The fish being hooked is brought as handy to the shore as may be, and is then transfixed by a trident fired from a gun by an attendant with a small charge, the shaft, which of course must project from the muzzle, having a string tied to it by which the captive, usually killed by the wound, is drawn in.

"Now the above story I commend to the Members of the Houghton Club, and hope they may derive both instruction in their art and amusement from it. The sunk grasshopper is a rich idea. The trident is not perhaps much better than a landing net, especially as our fish do not reach 30 lb., and a gun in the Mayfly season would be heavy to carry.

"I may add that the large trout ascend all the rivers falling into the great lakes, doubtless to spawn. They ascend the Ticino to a fall and rapid, which I saw, and where they make violent leaps in vain."

1853

27th April.—No grannom. This is, without exception, the worst April fishing ever known.

2nd May.—No grannom on the water, and thus ends the worst spring season within memory.

16th.—J. Bonham Carter saw two snakes in a broad ditch, swimming with their heads erect about 1½ inch above the water. One went into a rat hole; the other he jumped upon and got out uninjured. When put into the broad water at Machine Shallow, it took to the bottom, but afterwards swam as when first seen, down stream.

3rd June.—In the stomach of a trout caught at Westover this morning, weighing 2 lb. 12 oz., Mr. Warburton found a half-digested young water shrew-mouse.

4th.—In the stomach of a trout caught at Fullarton Bridge this morning, Mr. Warburton found a half-digested young water shrew-mouse.

7th.—In the stomach of a trout caught at Westover this day Mr. Warburton found the remains of a crayfish.

10th.—Signor Dragonetti [drag net] and Mons. de la Fosse [the ditches] produced 9 trout weighing 21 lb. 14 oz.

In the interval between the stomach and the internal coating of the ribs of a black trout, Field found a number of globular intestinal creatures like those in a rotten sheep, 25 to 30 in number. He stated that he had found the same in every black trout that he had cleaned, but none in any trout in good condition. Mr. Warburton afterwards found them in several black trout.

11th June.—The fly quite over, if that can be said to be over which has hardly appeared at all. In many parts of the water no fly was seen, and this corresponds with accounts from the Avon at Salisbury, where the fish did not rise. Even the dace never came to the surface to take the fly. This is the worst season in the memory of the oldest member of the Club.

20th June.—The stomachs of the trout now caught at Wherwell contain to repletion earthworms and Mayflies. Mr. Warburton has found no remains of minnows.

(N.B.—It is concluded from the above writing that either the ink was much worse or the wine much better than usual!)

The Mayfly fishing in the Houghton Water during 1853 (excluding 9 trout caught in the drag net) gives the following results.

156 trout and grayling, weighing  $314\frac{1}{2}$  lb., were taken by 66 rods, each employed for one day, being an average of  $2\frac{1}{4}$  fish per rod per day, weighing  $4\frac{1}{4}$  lb.

At Westover and Wherwell the Mayfly lasted till from June 3rd till July 9th inclusive, during which time 41 rods, each employed for one day, took 199 trout weighing  $396\frac{1}{4}$  lb., being an average of 5 fish weighing 10 lb. per rod per day. The largest trout weighed 4 lb. 3 oz.

1st July.—In the stomach of a trout weighing 4 lb., killed at Wherwell, Mr. Warburton found 3 dragon flies. The stomach of another was full of sugs [*Gammarus pulex*]. Another trout, weighing  $2\frac{1}{4}$  lb., caught with Mayfly, had in its stomach sugs, a dragon fly, and many portions of green weed.<sup>1</sup>

2nd July.—Mr. Warburton found a large crayfish in the stomach of a trout of  $3\frac{1}{4}$  lb., caught with natural Mayfly at Wherwell.

5th July.—Mr. Warburton caught at Wherwell with natural Mayfly 5 trout weighing 12 lb. 11 oz. In the stomach of the largest, weighing 4 lb. 3 oz., were sugs, small flies, and black beetles (*Hantonicæ*, "black bobs"); also fragments of vegetable matter. Another trout contained a small eel, the size of a lob-worm.

8th and 9th July.—Mayfly extinct for the season at Wherwell, but Mr. Warburton, fishing with some obtained on the 7th, killed 8 trout weighing  $16\frac{1}{2}$  lb. Their stomachs contained little except picketwing flies.<sup>2</sup>

18th July.—Mr. Warburton killed a jack 6 lb. 4 oz. in the Peat Pits which had in its stomach (1) half another jack which would weigh, when entire, about 1 lb.; (2) the skin and hair of a water-rat, rolled into pellets; (3) a live crayfish, which swam away merrily when restored to the water; and (4) a minnow which the jack had just taken off Mr. Warburton's hook.

30th July.—Mr. Warburton caught two river perch, weighing together 3 lb. 14 oz. In the stomach of each was a crayfish.

23rd October.—Those who know Stockbridge will not be surprised to

<sup>1</sup> The weed was sent for identification to W. J. Broderip, who replied that "*Brown, botanicarum princeps*, has made out your trout's moss to be *Fontinalis antipyretica*, which the Swedes stuff between their fire-places and wooden walls to make them fire-proof."

<sup>2</sup> The local term for duns.—Ed.

hear that Messrs. Penn and Norman on their arrival were greeted with the intelligence that the grayling had risen abundantly *last week*. Not a fish showed itself to-day, a fact which will be still less surprising to gentlemen acquainted with the Houghton water.

*December.*—An otter was trapped, but not detained. Many trout had been destroyed by this beast, principally females full of spawn. This is the second time that otters have visited this part of Test during the existence of the Club. (*See 12th July 1847.*)

Fifty brace of trout given us by the Whitchurch Club reach their destination with scarcely any loss, and were turned into Asham's Weir.

The Houghton Fishing Club dates from the year 1823 inclusive. Mr. Beadon and Mr. Barnard formed it, and Mr. Popham was the first member elected. The water is rented from twelve different proprietors: the highest rent being £95 and the lowest 3s. Since 1826 inclusive there have been killed 14,789 lb. 14 oz. of trout and grayling. Since 1829, 3867 lb. 5 oz. of jack; since 1832, 339 lb. 3 oz. of perch, and since 1849, 8026 lb. of eels.

The keepers have destroyed as vermin since 1845, 4784 lb. of roach, dace, and small jack.

*From H. WARBURTON to H. NORMAN.*

... "My Mayfly fishing did not expire this year till 9th July. There is one of the streams at Wherwell which is fed by cold springs, and in which the Mayfly is always from a week to 10 days later than it is in the other streams of the same fishing not 100 yards distant. This stream continued with occasional intermission of a day to yield me a good supply of fresh Mayflies until the 7th of July inclusive. With fly that had risen from the water two days before, and was either quite black or had cast its skin, I fished at Wherwell and at Westover in streams where the Mayfly had been extinct for the season at least 10 days, and I caught there—

|                   |       |                                     |
|-------------------|-------|-------------------------------------|
| July 2nd, 3 trout | . . . | 7 lb. 4 oz.                         |
| " 5th, 5 trout    | . . . | 12 lb. 11 oz. (largest 4 lb. 3 oz.) |
| " 9th, 4 trout    | . . . | 8 lb. 6 oz."                        |



## THE MONARCH OF THE DUCK POND

*A Pike-fishing Adventure*

In August last year (1853) I went with my family to Hastings, having sporting inducements in the vicinity, and being engaged to visit, among others, a very worthy farmer of my acquaintance, with whom for 25 years I had been in the habit of shooting, occasionally varying my amusement by a little fishing in the ponds and streams on his property. A few days before I left town my friend called upon me to request that I would bring some fishing tools with me, as there was "something" in the pond that, for the last two years, had eaten all the young ducks, broken many fishing lines, frightened an old woman, and committed other enormities. The old dame, to use her own words, related that one evening she went to the pond to look after her ducks and "summat giv a splunge as made her come all over so she could hardly get home."

I accordingly took with me a spinning rod and a common bottom rod for tench, as I heard there were a few remaining in the pond. Immediately on my arrival at Hastings, I instructed a fisherman to get me, by 6 o'clock next morning, some smelts if possible, and, if not, any small fish he could procure. In the morning my servant brought me a gray gurnard, weighing not less than half a pound, which I was informed was the smallest fish brought in by the boats that morning. I smiled at this idea of a bait, and thought of having the gurnard cooked for my breakfast, but eventually took it with me, not knowing how far I might be successful in obtaining any small fish for bait. . . . The pond had been described to me as very deep, clear, free from weeds and without any stumps or sunken trees in the water. I found it to be of very moderate depth, weedy, regular pease soup, through which appeared the black points of stumps in a nearly unbroken circle around the pond. The fact is, my friend had no notion of fishing and had never looked at the pond.

I tried in several other ponds on the estate for some roach, but could not even see one, although seven or eight years before I could have taken any number of them. I then began to think of my gurnard, doubting whether to cut it in pieces or not; but, remembering that I had in my



case a gigantic set of spinning hooks, made by Bowness (late Chevalier), 12 Bell Yard, Temple Bar, for such a contingency, I tried it, and with the help of the sliding lip-hook, succeeded in making the gurnet spin as truly as ever did any gudgeon or bleak.

Fitting out a proper rod and line for the tench, by way of amusement for my little boy, who was in a most joyous state of delight at the prospect of fishing, I took my station by the water. . . . My rustic friend, all anxiety for the capture of the offending creature, whatever it might be, took his station on a bank above me, whence he could see everything and pass his criticisms on my performance. Spinning he had never before witnessed, and the following ejaculations escaped from him: "I like to see that bait work"—"Can't think how you make it twirl round so"—"Seem to throw it just wherever you like."

The pond being about 30 yards in diameter, I was enabled to reach every part of it without shifting my position; but, after one hour's incessant throwing, I began to think that some night-line had done the work, and my labour was all in vain. I made allowance, however, for the very thick state of the water, and persevered. I presently saw my bottom line on the move, and landed a superb tench of 3 lb. weight, which was immediately placed upon a small grass plot, while my boy danced and shouted around it in triumph.

Soon after this my spinning bait and tackle became fast in a stump under water; and, while trying to extricate them, I saw the tench line again upon the move; so, laying down my spinning rod, I took up the other, and landed another tench similar to the first. I had just baited the hook and cast in the line again, when my rustic friend called out—"There is something at this here line!" Down went the tench rod, and seizing the other I soon found that the fish on whose destruction I was bent had extricated my bait and tackle. I saw that he was a very long pike in a miserable state of starvation, but I did not succeed in striking the hooks firmly into him, so he escaped for the time.

In a few minutes after, he came up close to my feet with his mouth wide open and head out of water, seizing my bait as I was in the act of drawing it out for another throw. Waiting just long enough to see in what direction he moved off, I struck him with two such jerks that I felt perfectly satisfied he would not again escape by shaking the hooks out of his mouth. My rustic friend then, at the top of his voice, summoned the surrounding population.

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"Hoy! Sam, Tom, Henry! he has got a hold of him; run and tell your mistress some of ye!"

I was speedily surrounded by a motley group composed of men from the barn and wheat-stacks, old women, boys, little children, female servants, grooms, the lady of the house, and a dog or two. Fortunately they did not interfere with me, as I had a desperate battle with the fish; and five times I was compelled to ford a muddy ditch with wet Sussex clay in it and two or three rolling stones to step upon, as the fish ran under different stumps and entangled my line. Some pedantic fishers say that you must on no account give a fish slack line; however, I slackened mine entirely so soon as I found I was in a difficulty; and the fish, not feeling the pull of the line, remained perfectly quiet until I had set all things free for another start.

Having a landing net much too small for such service, I was compelled to play my fish until he was quite unable to move; and I then drew him up the muddy ditch until I could take him in my hands and carry him out into the adjoining field. Then followed sundry observations by the bystanders, who had confined their remarks hitherto to an occasional "Lookeee there!" as the fish gave a splash in his struggles to escape. Now I heard—"Ha-ad him aout, ain't he." "Ha, ha! and ketch'd him with a little line no bigger than a good-sized needle." "Davl'ish greet fish, sure-lie!"

The pike, although 40 inches in length, weighed only 16 pounds. I continued spinning until my gurnard fell to pieces, but could not discover another pike, and I have since ascertained that there was but one in the pond. I caught another tench of 3 pounds weight which had evidently been half way down the throat of the pike, being bitten from head to tail, so that there was not an entire piece of skin larger than a sixpence. This is a practical refutation of the fable that pike will never touch a tench.

E. T. C.

There were caught in the Club waters in 1853, 196 trout and 32 grayling.

Largest fish  $5\frac{1}{4}$  lb. trout (on a trimmer). Fourteen trout and no grayling of 3 lb. and upwards were taken. The remarkable scarcity of grayling was accounted for on the hypothesis that the heavy floods of 1852, which carried away weirs, &c., had washed them out of the Club

waters. Mr. Yarrell considered that the grayling is less able than a trout to make way against or resist a powerful stream.

Fifty brace of trout were brought from Whitchurch and turned into the Club waters.

1854

LINES WRITTEN IN THE BEGINNING OF A NEW VOLUME

Presiding God o'er line and hook!  
 Look kindly on this new-born book;  
 Grant that its pages may portray  
 Successful doings on each day.  
 Let all the entries be exact,  
 So far as may be, truth and fact.  
 Should now and then a deed appear  
 For record, with an aspect queer,  
 Breathe not a doubt, but let it seem  
 As if a truth the deed had been.  
 So shall these pages serve our turn,  
 And all each other's actions learn.  
 Should entries now and then be found  
 Of trout and grayling *just* 1 lb.—  
 Frown not! observe the numerous cuts  
 Along their sides, and want of g—ts;<sup>1</sup>  
 'Tis scarce allowed to gods to say  
 The weight that these have ta'en away.  
 They are but offerings to appease  
 The minor gods that rule the breeze.  
 If without too much care for pelf  
 I may ask something for myself,  
 Grant that this hand, whose happy lot  
 It is this opening page to blot,  
 May make—still unsubdued by age—  
 The record on its latest page.

H. N[ORMAN].

<sup>1</sup> The condition of a fish which has been submitted to the disfigurement of crimping.—ED.

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In 1893, forty years save one after the above lines had been penned, the writer's elder son, Mr. H. J. Norman, added the following Latin translation of them.

Di precor indigetes, quæis piscatoria curæ  
 Ars fuit, huic libro rite favete novo.  
 Jam date—si fas est orare—ut prospera semper  
 Facta hæc enumeret pagina quoque die.  
 Et, quantum poterunt, quæcunque annalibus istis  
 Tradentur vero convenienter eant.  
 Tu tamen, hanc oculis cui sit percurrere chartam,  
 Si facta historiis vix memoranda refert,  
 Ne scrutare nimis; sed vera hoc scripta libello  
 Omnia, securus simplicitate, putes.  
 Interea sociis hæc grata volumina nostris  
 Alter et alterius, si velit, acta legat.  
 Si tenuem interdum truttam, nondumque bilibrem  
 Thymallum } —dictu flebile!—forte notes,  
 Salmonem }  
 Contrahe ne frontem; sectum latus aspice cultro,  
 Et, cava si fuerint viscera, mitte loqui.  
 Vix Superis ipsis quantum hos scripsisse remôrit  
 Versiculos crimen pectore nosse datur.  
 Scilicet hi tantum sunt munera parva, minores  
 Flamina quæis parent apta piare deos.  
 Si precibus nobis, quos non amor urget habendi  
 Immodicus, liceat sollicitare Jovem,  
 O utinam donet nostram, cui forte lituras  
 Contigit has primas imposuisse manum,  
 Vix tremulam senio, supremo codice facta—  
 Gratum opus—in longos tradere posse dies!

17th June.—Mr. Warburton caught 17 trout at Wherwell, weighing 35 lb. 4 oz. The stomach of one trout contained a frog.

4th July.—Mr. Warburton killed on a minnow a jack of 2 lb. containing an entire mole, recently swallowed.

2nd August.—An otter trapped last night near the lower end of Black Lake, weighing nearly 25 lb.



The weeds were left uncut this year on and about Houghton Shallows; but sport on the shallows was worse than usual. Of 601 lb. of trout and grayling killed during the season, the upper water, particularly Cooper's Mead, yielded the greater proportion. Perhaps the excessive cold of the early part of June may have driven the fish into deeper waters. In August H. N[orman] observed on the Houghton Shallows an abundant supply of fish of the year. The keepers affirmed that they had never seen so large a quantity of young fish. This may have arisen from the protection afforded by the weeds being left uncut.

The keepers made the following observations during the very severe weather of the past winter.

They found—a miller's thumb (*Cottus gobio*) choked by trying to swallow a trout too large for it; a water rail (*Rallus aquaticus*) choked in trying to swallow a miller's thumb; two dabchicks (*Podiceps minor*) choked by miller's thumbs.<sup>1</sup> A dozen dabchicks which had been hung up in a willow bush were all taken away by a stoat in two nights. The stoat was caught. He had bitten off the twigs to which the dabchicks were attached.

## 1855

[The "Crimean" winter 1854-5 was memorably rigorous, even in the United Kingdom, and the keepers reported that the trout were a fortnight later than usual in spawning.—ED.]

15th April.—The river never known so low for 39 years. The lambs dying for want of herbage: hay £6 a ton and the hedges still like mid-winter.

23rd April.—The water is now so low that one can walk from the Houghton side of the river to the island three parts of the way over, and not be much above his shoes.

8th May.—A pike picked up dead in the Peat Pits, 22 lb., teeth worn down and both eyes opaque as if with cataract.

5th June.—A flock of 14 wild geese passed down the river.

11th June.—This was the first day when the Mayfly rose abundantly

<sup>1</sup> The miller's thumb or bull-head is an awkward mouthful, for on each foremost gill-cover he carries a stout spine, and, when attacked, inflates his operculum, projecting the spines.—ED.



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in the Houghton water, *i.e.* 17 days after its first appearance in the canal at Marsh.<sup>1</sup>

25th June.—Mr. Warburton caught 23 trout at Wherwell weighing 44 lb. Ten weighed 2 lb. and upwards, the largest 3½ lb.

5th July.—Mayfly still continued to rise in the ditch fed by cold springs at Wherwell.

## COMPARISON BETWEEN THE MAYFLY SEASON IN THE CLUB WATER AND IN THE FISHERIES OF WESTOVER AND WHERWELL.

| Houghton.   | Westover and Wherwell.  |
|---|---|
| First fish caught with Mayfly brought from the Barge river, 2nd June.                           | First fish caught with Mayfly, 8th June.  |
| Last fish caught with Mayfly, 18th June.  | Last " " " " 2nd July.  |
| 85 rods ( <i>i.e.</i> rods used 85 times) killed 186 trout and grayling weighing 334 lb. 13 oz. | 24 rods ( <i>i.e.</i> rods used 24 times) killed 210 trout, weighing 357 lb. 11 oz. |
| Average weight, nearly 1 lb. 13 oz.   | Average weight, 1 lb. 11 oz.  |
| Average per rod, just over 2 fish per day.  | Average per rod per day, 8 fish.  |

7th July.—The importance of allowing the weeds to grow with a view to the preservation of the fish and providing them with their natural food is shown in a remarkable manner [this season].

On Radnor Shallow, between the Island and Houghton shore, there was, during the Mayfly season of 1855, a depth of only two inches of water. The growth of weeds has increased the depth to ten inches this day, and it is full of vigorously growing weeds forming an admirable cover for trout and grayling. . . . The fact that many small trout have been caught on the shallows may be connected with the artificial breeding, which it is thought ought to be continued.

The following remarks may be useful on the subject of the Mayfly. In average seasons it appears between 24th and 30th May inclusive. In the 33 years just ended the earliest date recorded for its appearance is 18th May 1848, the latest 11th June 1855. From 1823 to 1855 the fly has risen—

In four years before 24th May, average duration 18 days. In fourteen years between 24th and 28th inclusive, average duration 17 days. In fifteen years between 29th May and 11th June, average duration 12 days. The average duration for 33 years has been 14 days. The shortest

<sup>1</sup> This canal or "Barge river" is now filled up and the railway is laid along it.—ED.

# 1855] THE HOUGHTON FISHING CLUB 99

duration was in 1823, viz. 2nd to 10th June, 9 days, and in 1855, 11th to 19th June, 9 days. The longest duration was in 1843, 26th May to 23rd June, 29 days.

An average season is the best and a late season the worst. In early seasons the fly rarely comes up freely at first, and the fish do not then take it so eagerly as when it rises at its appointed time and appears daily till it is over.

I do not gather from the classics that Anacreon was an entomologist, and I suspect that, having indulged too freely in potation in the Tent, what he called a grasshopper was, in reality, a Mayfly. Under this impression I am sure all will join me in saying—

*Μάχηζονες σε τέττιξ (sic).*

The date when the Mayfly was first in sufficient strength on the water to make it profitable to fish with it is given as follows:—

| Year.          |        | Year.          |         |
|----------------|--------|----------------|---------|
| 1839 . . . . . | June 5 | 1848 . . . . . | May 22  |
| 1840 . . . . . | May 29 | 1849 . . . . . | May 28  |
| 1841 . . . . . | May 26 | 1850 . . . . . | June 1  |
| 1842 . . . . . | May 27 | 1851 . . . . . | May 31  |
| 1843 . . . . . | May 27 | 1852 . . . . . | June 1  |
| 1844 . . . . . | May 24 | 1853 . . . . . | May 31  |
| 1845 . . . . . | June 5 | 1854 . . . . . | May 25  |
| 1846 . . . . . | May 25 | 1855 . . . . . | June 11 |
| 1847 . . . . . | May 29 |                |         |

## HUMBLE SUGGESTION TO TWO FRIENDS IN CONSEQUENCE OF THEIR OBSERVATIONS OFTEN REPEATED

"Our fish are old," G. Norman says,  
 "And cause me much vexation."  
 While Corkran cries—"They will not rise,  
 Whatever be my station."

To meet your views, my fishing friends,  
 With eloquent oration

I recommend you give this toast—  
 "The Rising Generation."

## 1856

26th April.—A few grannom are found in the grass, but none seem to rise from the water, and for many years there has not been seen what was formerly considered the ordinary quantity of this fly. . . . A black tern (*Hydrochelidon nigra*) was at feed in the large Peat Pits all day, and when not on the wing was perched on a bough, the only one standing in the middle of the water.<sup>1</sup>

28th April.—H. Norman caught a trout weighing 2 lb., in the stomach of which were the fur and bones of a mouse.

11th May.—A few caperers on Machine Bridge Shallow.

5th June.—This day was the first any Mayflies appeared worth notice. . . . The frost last night was so severe that the leaves were destroyed on a number of pollard willows at Westover.

In 16 days' fishing at Westover and Wherwell Mr. Warburton caught 147 trout weighing 262½ lb. Mr. John Wood fished two days and caught 6 trout weighing 10 lb.

On Saturday, June 21st, Mr. Warburton caught 21 trout weighing 40½ lb., the largest 3 lb. 10 oz. On the 23rd he caught 2 brace of trout, of which the two largest weighed 4½ lb. and 3½ lb.

The absence of Mayfly was the peculiar feature of the season 1856. [Similar reports from the Colne, the Itchen, the Avon, and the Wiltshire rivers.] A dowager member of the Club, one of the Faithful, thinks that the grayling have destroyed the breed. It is to be hoped that the same causes which have nearly deprived the river of the rise of grannom for three years will not have a similar effect on the Mayfly. The season has been very unfavourable, and the weight of fish killed only 502 lb. 4 oz., less by nearly 50 lb. than that of 1855, which was also much below the average of previous years. E. B[ARNARD].

## 1857

28th April.—A "blackthorn winter" day. Mr. Martin Smith killed ten pike in the Peat Pits weighing 17½, 17, 12½, 11½, 11, 11, 11, 10, 8, and 7 lb. = 116 lb.

<sup>1</sup> "In former days the Black Tern was abundant in many parts of the Fen country, to say nothing of other districts. Though nearly all its ancient abodes have been drained, and sterilised for its purposes these many years past, not a spring comes but it shows itself in small companies in the eastern counties of England, evidently seeking a breeding place."—Newton's *Dictionary of Birds*, p. 956.

## 1857] THE HOUGHTON FISHING CLUB 101

7th May.—Ice half-crown thick. Lord Guernsey killed 6 pike with the "American spoon,"<sup>1</sup> 12½, 12, 9½, 8¾, 8½, 8½ lb. = 59¾ lb.

1st June.—First fish caught with Mayfly.

6th June.—The fly may be considered to have finished to-day.

[As usual, it lasted much longer at Wherwell, appearing first on 28th May, a fortnight after its first appearance on the Canal stream. Mr. Warburton caught on 9th June 22 trout weighing 39 lb., and on the 10th he had 15 trout weighing 34 lb., largest 3½ lb.; but he records that his fishing was spoilt on most days by a dead calm. The blow-line, with natural fly, which was in vogue at that period, required a breeze for its exercise.—ED.]

A pair of partridges which had laid on Beadon's Island at Houghton were much disturbed during the Mayfly season. It seems that these birds hatched 18 young. One of the parents and one young bird got killed somehow or other. The rest of the covey remained on the Island till they could fly, and then made their way to *terra firma*.

29th October.—The keepers attribute the bad sport with grayling this year to the high temperature. A low temperature, they say, brings the fly to the water, and the fish rise in consequence. This may be so; we have much fly in the air.

The total catch in 1857 has been—

|                    |   |   |   |                       |
|--------------------|---|---|---|-----------------------|
| 293 trout weighing | . | . | . | 531 lb. 2 oz.         |
| 60 grayling "      | . | . | . | 116 " 14 "            |
| 22 perch "         | . | . | . | 17 " 6 "              |
| 25 pike "          | . | . | . | 233 " 4 "             |
|                    |   |   |   | <u>883 lb. 10 oz.</u> |

This shows a greater number of trout than has ever been caught before. In the year 1843 there were caught

|                    |   |   |   |                       |
|--------------------|---|---|---|-----------------------|
| 260 trout weighing | . | . | . | 540 lb. 7 oz.         |
| 110 grayling "     | . | . | . | 195 " 5 "             |
|                    |   |   |   | <u>735 lb. 12 oz.</u> |

In 1843 there were 30 fish of 3 lb. and upwards; in 1857 only three.

<sup>1</sup> Familiar enough, now, to British anglers, but a novelty fifty years ago.—ED.



## 102 THE HOUGHTON FISHING CLUB [1858-

It would seem that the grayling have permanently declined in number in the Club water. The quantity of Mayfly in 1857 was again very deficient, though they were more numerous than in 1856.

### 1858

*28th April.*—The grannom could not be obtained in sufficient quantity for the purpose of fishing, and the natural cow-dung fly was used as a substitute, with success.

*11th May.*—The Mayfly made its appearance on the Barge river. I desired Harris to see if he could get a fish there, and he has brought home this evening, two fish 4 lb. 4 oz. and 3 lb. 12 oz., blowing the Mayfly.

*2nd June.*—Eight rods took 44 trout and 2 grayling weighing 80 lb., largest grayling 2½ lb., largest trout 2 lb. 10 oz.

It is remarkable that during this year only three jack have been caught by members of the Club, weighing 29 lb., while in 1845 the weight killed was 66½ lb. 6 oz., and in 1848, 576 lb. 6 oz.

The past has been another remarkable season as to Mayfly, which has been very scarce generally, except at particular spots. The cause must be left for future accurate observers to discover, if possible; but I venture these remarks in the hope that they may be followed up in future years by others who may be inclined, by annual observations faithfully recorded, to trace the causes that have operated to produce the present scarcity of Mayfly.

Some persons erroneously suppose that severe frosts kill the grub under water; but in last season, as in some previous ones, the want of fly has been in the deep, not in the shallow, waters.<sup>1</sup> There was a fair rise of fly in the upper part of Cooper's Mead and at Machine Bridge; plenty of it at Den Mead weir, the old river and Asham's; but none at Parsonage, where the men generally fill their baskets daily; very little in the Town water and Marsh Court Shallow, and none in the deep water below the shallows and in the Marsh Court carrier, or from Tanner's Trunk all down the deep water to Radnor Shallow. There were a few at North Head and Houghton Shallows, while there was great plenty in

<sup>1</sup> The memorably severe winter of 1854-55 was followed by an unusual abundance of fly of all kinds in Hampshire waters, though the rivers remained frozen from the middle of January to the middle of March.—ED.



## 1859] THE HOUGHTON FISHING CLUB 103

Black Lake, and in the Barge river there never was known to be a more abundant supply.

There were caught in the Club Waters in the year 1858—

|                    |       |                |
|--------------------|-------|----------------|
| 326 trout weighing | . . . | 576 lb. 13 oz. |
| 79 grayling "      | . . . | 143 " 9 "      |
| 51 perch "         | . . . | 41 " 10 "      |
| 3 pike "           | . . . | 30 " 0 "       |
| Total              | . . . | 792 lb. 0 oz.  |

A considerable increase in the number of trout over last year, but the weight of trout and grayling together is still 15 lb. under that of 1843, although the number of trout and grayling in 1858 is 35 in excess of 1843. Excluding the very fine trout caught in the Canal (one of which weighed upwards of 4 lb.), there were only 3 fish of 3 lb. caught in 1858. Should the unexampled absence of rain during the last 18 months give us a dripping spring and summer, and bring with it the usual supply of Mayfly, an unexampled capture, both as to quantity and weight, may be looked for.

## 1859

5th May.—A large tern, reported to be as big as a jack-heron, visited the Houghton Shallows, and was observed by Mr. Martin Smith to make several stoops with great violence, but failed to take a fish. Faithful had never seen a bird of this sort before. There were some white feathers in the breast, the body quite black. Will any gentleman tell us the species?

14th May.—Mr. Martin Smith killed 12 trout and 3 grayling, weighing 28 lb. 8 oz., in two hours on Radnor Shallows. All these fish were caught whipping. The Annals of the Club do not furnish any similar evidence of such artistical skill. E. B[ARNARD].

A teal's nest in the Peat Pits contained 5 teal's eggs and 3 partridge's eggs. The teal eggs were taken and are being hatched under a hen.

24th May.—Mr. Corkran, whipping in Radnor Shallow at 9 P.M. with a grey palmer fly, killed an eel about 1 lb. weight.

20th May.—MAYFLY UP. Mr. Bonham Carter having been seen at

# 104 THE HOUGHTON FISHING CLUB [1859]

Winchester on Wednesday the 18th, and having stated his intention of coming to Stockbridge on that day, has not yet made his appearance.

Where is B. Carter?

Echo answers—"Bonham Carter

What are you arter?"

26th May.—The first fish caught with a Mayfly this day, although the fly has been up for a week. A most unusual occurrence. Eleven rods took 16 trout and 2 grayling weighing 42 lb. 14 oz. Heaviest grayling 2 lb. 8 oz.; three trout 2 lb. 6 oz. each.

[Two trout are entered as taken by "Iron Brown," which seems to be a euphemism for snatching or poking with a landing net in the ditches.—Ed.]

27th May.—Twelve rods took 32 trout and 6 grayling weighing 65 lb. 4 oz.

25th July.—Found in Machine meadow many plants of *Epipactis palustris*, a very scarce plant.<sup>1</sup>

29th July.—A very large trout was known to have taken its station in the narrow channel which leads to the mill at Bossington. Many attempts were made to capture it, without success. At length, James Faithful succeeded, the bait being the intestines of a moorhen on a gorge hook. The fish proved to be a female weighing 5½ lb., in not very good condition. It was sent to the Treasurer in London.

There were caught in the Club Water in the year 1859—

|                    |   |   |   |                      |
|--------------------|---|---|---|----------------------|
| 277 trout weighing | . | . | . | 481 lb. 9 oz.        |
| 75 grayling        | " | " | " | 137 " 9 "            |
| 21 pike            | " | " | " | 180 " 14 "           |
| 15 perch           | " | " | " | 7 " 12 "             |
|                    |   |   |   | <hr/> 807 lb. 12 oz. |

A very considerable falling off from the quantity caught last year. There were only 5 fish of 3 lb. and upwards. The largest, 5 lb. 8 oz., was caught in the brick arch at the head of Bossington Mill.

At the end of August and early in September the wild ducks leave the New Forest and the duck preserves at Mottisfont in flocks of several

<sup>1</sup> This orchid is widely spread over Britain, abundant in some places, especially upon moist chalk or limestone, but not generally common. It is rare in Scotland and Ireland.—Ed.

1859] THE HOUGHTON FISHING CLUB 105

hundreds, and go to feed in the barley fields up this valley as high as Clatford. Grice, who goes with H. Norman, and whose father rents a farm at Houghton, has killed 4 couple of duck in the barley in a single morning at daybreak. He has seen many hundreds in his own barley. The birds are then superior eating.

*Stockbridge, 1859.*

As the only remaining member of the Houghton Club, as at first established by myself in 1822, it becomes my melancholy duty to record the loss of two of our valued friends, whose names have prominently appeared in our annals from the beginning.

My first acquaintance with HENRY WARBURTON commenced at Eton in the year 1800, where he was dignified with the name of "Piscator." We fished there together for five years. His dress as Saltbearer at Montem, of blue and white silk trimmed with silver, was far different from that garb which he assumed when fishing at Houghton.

In public life, as a member of Parliament, he devoted his chief attention to useful purposes, more particularly to the Anatomy Bill and Rowland Hill's penny postage, which latter measure, though meeting with the strongest opposition, was at length mainly carried by Warburton's persevering energy, and the respect paid to his talents, as well as the integrity of purpose with which he pursued his object.

It was not, however, in the political, but in the scientific world that Henry Warburton shone conspicuous. As a mathematician, a geologist and a chymist, besides his general knowledge of all the higher branches of science, he was one of the foremost; and, as a proof of his superiority, I may here state that, having observed that Dr. Wollaston, when in the company of philosophers, if he had a doubt on any subject, always appealed to Warburton, I asked Wollaston why he did so. He answered—"Because Warburton not only knows everything, but is so accurate in his information that he is like a book of reference of the highest authority."

As a fisherman, Warburton was unrivalled. His store of universal

knowledge instructed all who shared in his conversation. He was a man of the nicest sense of honour, and a most sincere and faithful friend.

[To the above eulogy may be added the following notes upon one who was a somewhat conspicuous figure in Parliament from 1826 till 1847, with a brief interval between 1841 and 1843.

The son of a London timber-merchant, Henry Warburton was born about 1785, and, having been educated at Eton and Trinity College, Cambridge, succeeded his father in a large business in the Baltic trade. From this he soon retired, his inclination tending strongly in the direction of natural science and political economy. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society and other learned bodies. An earnest Radical, in days when that term was regarded by most men as a reproach, he applied himself in Parliament specially to reforming the College of Surgeons, and, although a keen sportsman and an effective shot, he vigorously attacked the Game Laws. "I have read," he said, in debate on this hotly contested subject, "in Marina's account of the Tonga Islands, that rats are there preserved as game, and although everybody is at liberty to eat rats, nobody is allowed to kill them, except those who are descended from the gods. This is the only country and the only case I know of which furnishes anything like a parallel to our Game Laws." The allusion, of course, was to the restriction under the laws of the period of the right to kill game to those possessing a qualification as landowners.

Joseph Hume was Warburton's chief ally in the House of Commons; but in 1841, having been returned at the head of the poll after a close and very corrupt contest for Bridport, a petition was presented against him and his colleague: he accepted the Chiltern Hundreds, and despite the dismayed remonstrance of his friends, insisted upon giving evidence before the Committee, revealing the gross bribery of which he and others had been guilty. In 1843 he was returned as Radical member for Kendal, and retired from public life in 1847.

A man of great and varied accomplishments, of high culture and amiable character, Warburton was a very indifferent speaker, and was deficient in that indescribable quality which should have impressed



the imagination and swayed the opinion of men less well-informed than himself. He was bitter in controversy, intolerant with a strong opponent and contemptuous with a weak one. But in private life, as the chronicles of the Houghton Club testify, his friendship was greatly valued by those who enjoyed it. Man of affairs though he was, he delighted to get *procul negotiis*, and sometimes spent weeks together at Stockbridge, not even fishing, but superintending the destruction of coarse fish, to which the Club devoted much attention in its earlier years. On one such occasion in autumn, when Warburton had been so engaged for some weeks, there was discovered after he left a great store of unopened newspapers, &c., under the sofa, showing how completely his thoughts had been absorbed by the affairs of the fishery.—ED.]

FRANCIS POPHAM, who lived in 1822 at Clarendon Park, had been in the habit of fishing the Houghton water for some years, and when the Club was established he expressed a wish to join it, if he could be admitted. By the general report of the neighbourhood he appeared to be one of the right sort; but he had been known at Oxford to Dr. Beadon, who spoke so highly of him that he was elected. It is now due to his memory to state that a more valuable member, and one more unexceptionable in every respect, could not have been selected.

As a fisherman, he confined himself to fly-fishing, although he always used a single-handed rod; and the way in which he threw a fly could not be surpassed by the most practical artist. As a staunch Tory of the old school, he despised the modern innovations of Mackintosh and Co., persevering in the wettest weather, though drenched to the skin, until his basket was heavy.

A more perfect specimen of the fine old English gentleman could not be found. He was well informed on all subjects, and possessed such an amiable disposition as to secure the good opinion and lasting regard of all who knew him.

He died at his house in Somersetshire, where he had discharged most efficiently his duties as the representative of an old family, both as a neighbour and an active magistrate.



## THE BUNGLER'S LAMENT

Oh fish, fish, fish!  
 I cannot catch you, fish;  
 Not e'en a dish;  
 Ye are so cursed shy  
 That 'tis but loss of labour e'en to try,  
 I really do believe 'tis all my eye!

Through Stockbridge swampy meadows wending,  
 Each hour in hopes of fortune mending,  
 Splash, splash, splash, splash—I tramp for days,  
 And not a fish my toil repays.

"What! not a fish? the Devil's in it! Why?"

"Oh, there has been to-day no rise of fly."

"But see! the fly's come on: 'tis still the same;

What is the matter now? or who's to blame?"

"Oh well, the sun has never ceased to shine;"

Or "there's no wind to carry out the line."

"But here's fly, cloud and wind—what now, I pray?"

"Oh it's no use, sir, when the wind's this way.

But you'll have glorious whipping, sir, to-night."

Alas! bad luck sticks to me, as in spite:

No rise at all at night, and then I'm told—

"Oh no, sir, never when it turns so cold.

They never do take when the water's high;"

Or "It's so low, indeed it's almost dry."

"But say then, dear —, why on earth do you grieve  
 Such infernal bad sport and cold dabbling to leave?"

"It is not to leave these, but the hearty good friends

Who e'en for such wretched bad luck make amends;

For, by Jove! they're as good and as jolly a set

Of hearty good fellows as ever were met.

'Tis but once in the year that we all come together;

So, in spite of each cross of wind, water and weather,

Of humours of fish, and bad fishing, I fear,

I depart in the hope to rejoin them next year."

1860

*3rd April.*—There seems no doubt that this is the latest spring known for many years. The fish have not yet recovered from spawning; in some cases they have not spawned yet. Saw two hills yesterday that were only made three weeks ago. A male and female fish in another part of the water were rubbing—the female quite full of spawn. Two martins were seen on 22nd March, but were found dead a few days after.

*24th April.*—Stiff north wind of icy coldness, which defied any amount of clothing. The river was covered with swallows and martins. . . . The utter absence of even an appearance of foliage so near the end of April is very remarkable. Farmers have great difficulty in keeping their sheep alive.

*16th May.*—Saw Sir Henry James at Sheep Bridge. He brought a friend with him who declared that he had seen an otter at North Head. I endeavoured to shake his belief by assuring him that the Test rats were three times the size of other rats; but he stuck to his assertion, and Faithful, coming up shortly after, admitted that an otter had been in the river for a fortnight.

*28th May.*—Mr. B. Carter and Mr. H. Norman each lost a fish which was caught after with the broken tackle still in its mouth. Mr. Norman's fish was lost with artificial, and recaptured with natural fly. Mr. Carter's was lost at 8.30 P.M. and recaptured at 9.30 P.M.; both flies artificial.

*29th May.*—Mr. H. Norman and Lord Ducie again each caught a fish which had broken away before. The broken tackle was in their mouths. Mr. Norman's fish had the broken tackle in its gills.

*30th May.*—Seven rods took 36 trout and 2 grayling weighing 63 lb. 14 oz.

*31st May.*—Seven rods took 27 trout and 7 grayling weighing 55 lb. 6 oz.

*1st June.*—Eleven rods took 75 trout and 3 grayling weighing 149 lb. 12 oz. Mr. Bonham Carter had the best basket, containing 14 trout and one grayling weighing 28 lb. 12 oz.

*2nd June.*—A hurricane from S.W. The gale, after loosening some of the ropes of the tent, upsetting all the chairs and breaking some bottles, completely wrecked the tent, which was taken down.

*18th July.*—In spite of Mr. Barnard's melancholy experiences of this

time last year, I determined to judge for myself [Martin Smith *loquitor*] whether anything was to be done at this season. I began to fish this evening in the deep water above Radnor Shallows at 6 o'clock. A few grayling rose for ten minutes at sunset. The wind did not go down; rain began in torrents and all chance was over by 8.30.

19th July.—This evening, having toiled all day in vain, without seeing a fish rise, I went at 7 P.M. to Butt's Larder. Between the high trees and Mr. Arundel's, above fifty fish rose for an hour incessantly. One of them made as much wave as if it had been a dog in the water. Faithful considered its weight to be above 5 lb. I got hold of him, but he broke me. They were taking a very small fly and would take nothing else.

20th July.—Heavy rain all night. It cleared up at noon but recommenced at 6 P.M. High wind till 9 P.M., but fish rose well in the worst part of the rain and storm. I am not sure whether, if it is warm at this period of the season, a rainy evening is not the best thing to wish for. I must add that the way the fish rose differed entirely from their habits in the spring. It was almost impossible to hook a fish firmly, and I have lost no less than six fish in three evenings. (*Note in another hand.* The evening fisherman who tries to catch large fish with pigmy flies deserves a punishment as great as gods can give or man can take.) On the whole I cannot avoid recommending my brother-piscators to stay at home, and be satisfied in future with the fair trial I have made. If any one thinks he can do better, I recommend him to begin (at night) opposite Tanner's Trunk, and to fish all the deep water to Radnor Shallows. I took in the three evenings four trout weighing 6 lb. 13 oz., one grayling 2 lb., and 3 river jack 3 lb. A *live* minnow, dropped into the weirs, will be sure to catch some of these last-named gentlemen, who are too numerous.

[In this year Mr. Price retired from the Grosvenor Arms, Stockbridge, and was succeeded by Mr. Samuel Scott. Mr. Price had conducted his inn for many years to the great satisfaction of anglers frequenting it.

Another change was caused by the retirement of the parish minister, the Rev. — Rynd, "a man who has exerted himself with high intelligence and indefatigable industry for the spiritual and temporal improvement of his flock; and that with no small success, as those will most readily allow who will compare its present condition with that of fifteen years ago. The library, the excellent school, &c., all owe their existence or improved state to Mr. Rynd."]

30th October.—Temperature unpleasantly warm, so that one felt

## 1861] THE HOUGHTON FISHING CLUB 111

impelled to seek for the shelter of a hedge or a tree, as in the middle of summer. The farmers are now finishing their harvest. Towards sunset the grayling rose and some were caught. [Two rods killed 3 grayling weighing  $4\frac{1}{2}$  lb.] Mr. Norman killed a jack of 21 lb. at 5 P.M. with snap tackle in a pool among the reeds near the site of the old house. It was a fine, well-fed fish, measuring 43 inches from nose to end of tail, or 41 inches to fork of tail, and  $19\frac{1}{2}$  inches in girth. Much difficulty was experienced in keeping him out of the weeds; he made five or six desperate sallies, but was landed in seven minutes.

1st Nov.—The number of grayling in the Club water has greatly diminished, which is much to be regretted. A high reward would be deserved by him who could restock our stream. Mr. Norman killed 5 jack, 18 $\frac{1}{2}$ , 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ , 6, 5, 4 lb., and put back many undersized ones.

There were caught in the Club Water in the year 1860—

|                            |                      |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| 507 trout weighing . . . . | 967 lb. 15 oz.       |
| 42 grayling „ . . . .      | 76 „ 10 „            |
| 27 jack „ . . . .          | 209 „ 4 „            |
| 30 perch „ . . . .         | 31 „ 12 „            |
|                            | <hr/> 1285 lb. 9 oz. |

Average weight of trout, 1 lb. 14.54 oz.

## 1861

18th February.—A jack of upwards of 30 lb. weight is reported in the Peat Pits.

4th April.—The keepers report that they never knew so many fish spawn as last year, and the way the shallows are torn up is a proof of it.

8th May.—A storm of hail and snow.

18th May.—Nothing could be more discouraging than the circumstances in which I arrived here this morning. There had been a white frost early; the weeds had been cut up the river and the surface was covered with them; wind N.-E., and to make the matter complete, I was told by Mr. Twysden Hodges, who was starting for London, that he had been here for a week at Mr. Etwall's water, and had not taken one fish. . . . Found a multitude of Mayfly coming out of a freshly cleaned ditch below Park Stream bridge, and observed the husks of many others. This



# 112 THE HOUGHTON FISHING CLUB [1861

ought to bring our season to about 1st June. I [Martin Smith] killed two trout,  $2\frac{3}{4}$  and 2 lb.

A beautiful female fish of  $5\frac{3}{4}$  lb. was taken in the stream crossing the road of the town about three weeks ago by Mr. John Day's keeper. He shut the hatches above and stranded the fish. Her head is stated to have been no larger than a pound trout's.

1st June.—It is curious that the fly at Bossington has been plentiful all over the water for the last three days, while in the Houghton water there has been very little above Sheep Bridge.

2nd June.—Six white water-lilies in bloom in the ditch at the bottom of the marsh.

28th October.—As gentlemen may be interested in knowing how the Club now stands as to the stock of grayling, one of its most enviable possessions, Mr. Norman may say that his own observation, aided by information derived from the keepers, leads to the following conclusions. There are hardly any grayling above Radnor Shallows; but a good many there; a few in the Park Stream; a good many on Houghton Shallows; a great many below the Sheep Bridge, and a few all the way from that point to Bossington. It follows that our water is far worse stocked with grayling than formerly. The question is—how can we restore the former state of things? To its solution, the intelligence of the keepers should be specially directed.

2nd November.—Wind N.W., a gale; bitterly cold. Mr. Norman went to the Peat Pits for two hours before his departure. He only got two runs; the first producing a jack which he believes to be the finest ever caught with a rod in the Club water. It was well fed, and altogether a handsome fish, weighing 23 lb.; length  $42\frac{3}{4}$  inches, girth  $19\frac{1}{2}$  in. And so—hurrah for the Peat Pits, and good-bye to angling for 1861!

An otter is haunting the Club waters. He has already been caught once, but escaped. I saw his spoor this morning, containing fish scales, chiefly of jack.

There were caught in the Club waters in the year 1861—

|                    |   |   |   |                |              |
|--------------------|---|---|---|----------------|--------------|
| 118 trout weighing | . | . | . | 259 lb.        | 6 oz.        |
| 43 grayling "      | . | . | . | 74 "           | 15 "         |
| 46 jack "          | . | . | . | 371 "          | 4 "          |
|                    |   |   |   | <u>705 lb.</u> | <u>9 oz.</u> |

Average weight of trout, 2 lbs. 3.16 oz.





GEORGE WASHINGTON  
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

# 112 THE HOUGHTON FISHING CLUB [1861

ought to bring our season to close on June 1 [Martin Smith] killed two trout, 2½ and 2 lb.

A beautiful female fish of 12 lb. was taken in the stream crossing the road of the town about three weeks ago by Mr. James Day's keeper. He shut the hatches above and stranded the fish. Her head is stated to have been no larger than a pound trout's.

1st June.—It is curious that the fly at Bessington has been plentiful all over the water for the last three days, while in the Houghton water there has been very little above Sheep Bridge.

2nd June.—Six white water-lilies in bloom in the ditch at the bottom of the marsh.

28th October.—As gentlemen may be interested in knowing how the Club now stands as to the stock of grayling, one of its most enviable possessions, Mr. Norman may say that his own observation, aided by information derived from the keepers, leads to the following conclusions. There are hardly any grayling above Sheep Bridge; but a good many there; a few in the Peat Pits; a great many in Houghton Water; a great many below the Sheep Bridge, and a few at the top from the point to Bessington. It follows that our water is far more stocked with grayling than formerly. The question is—how can we restore the former state of things? To its solution, the intelligence of the keepers should be specially directed.

2nd November.—Wind N.W., a gale; bitterly cold. Mr. Norman went to the Peat Pits for two hours before his departure. He only got two runs; the first producing a jack which he believes to be the finest ever caught with a rod in the Club water. It was well fed, and altogether a handsome fish, weighing 2½ lb.; length 42½ inches, girth 19½ in. And so—hurrah for the Peat Pits, and good-bye to angling for 1861!

An otter is haunting the Club waters. He has already been caught once, but escaped. I saw his spoor this morning, containing fish scales, chiefly of jack.

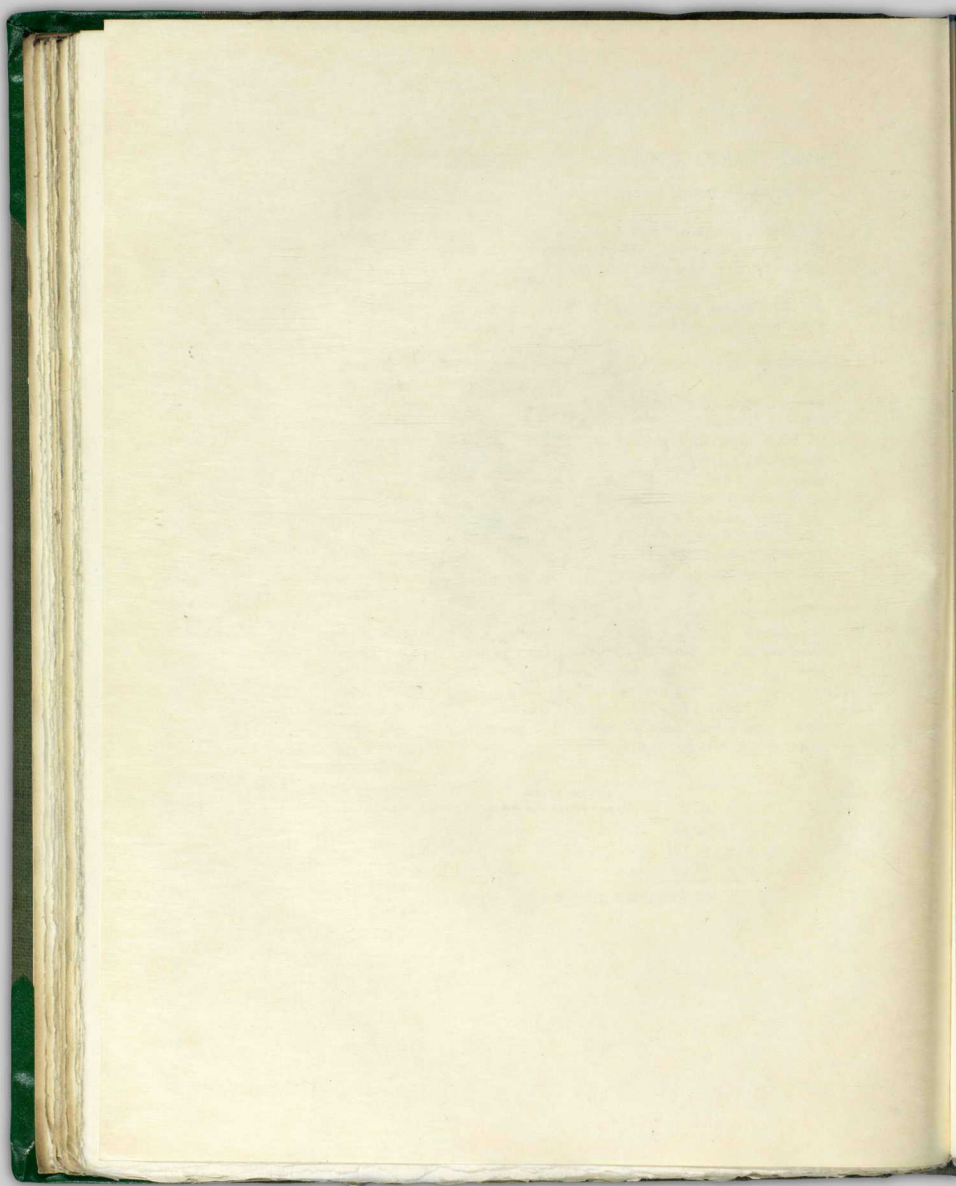
There were caught in the Club waters in the year 1861—

|                    |                     |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 118 trout weighing | 359 lb. 6 oz.       |
| 43 grayling "      | 74 " 15 "           |
| 46 jack "          | 371 " 4 "           |
|                    | <hr/> 705 lb. 9 oz. |

Average weight of trout, 2 lbs. 3.16 oz.



EDWARD BARNARD.  
*By Sir Francis Chantrey, R.A.*



The record for the year 1861 cannot be closed without notice of the loss the Club has sustained in the death of their much-valued member EDWARD BARNARD, who died suddenly on 13th December 1861. He was one of the founders of the Club in 1823, and never, from that time, omitted being present at the Mayfly gathering. His temper was never ruffled, his perception of the ludicrous most keen, and his power of portraying his impressions such as gave a peculiar charm to his society. He was taken from among us in his 76th year.

## 1862

3rd April.—An otter (female) was killed last week nearly opposite the Tent field, weighing 16 lb.

22nd April.—Mr. Hood killed an eel, 2 lb., spinning in Bossington waste water. Another otter, weighing 23½ lb., has been caught. One, if not two, more are said to be in the river.

24th and 25th April.—Great quantity of grannom.

6th May.—Lilac in full bloom. The beech tree at the bridge at Stockbridge in full leaf. Several Mayfly seen to-day in the Machine Ditch. A burnt fly at the Peat Pits. Bogbean in flower. All vegetation very forward. Thermometer at 8 P.M., 61° Fahr. Harris thinks it probable that the Mayfly will be up about May 20.

7th May.—Faithful *loquitur*—"Yes, them's dace; slender little 'umbugs! they slips through the two inch mesh like nothink. The roach is the worst, though; they be nasty, guggling things."

20th May.—Two or three Mayfly and a few caperers in Cooper's Mead.

31st May.—Wind W. to N.W., but not enough for blowing.

6th June.—Wind S.W., and very strong. So tremendous were the gusts that it was impossible to hold up the blowline rod. [From these entries it may be noted that the art of dry-fly fishing was unknown as yet upon the Test.—ED.]

5th September.—The keepers say the fish have risen well during the summer, especially in the evening. The book, however, says that no member has been here to take advantage of it. The fish rose as well



# 114 THE HOUGHTON FISHING CLUB [1862

yesterday from 11 A.M. till 8 P.M. as I ever saw them. Martin Smith, five trout, 7 lb. 10 oz.

6th Sept.—Mr. Martin Smith, 7 trout and 3 grayling, 16 lb. 9 oz.

There were caught in the Club waters in the year 1862—

|                    |   |   |   |                       |
|--------------------|---|---|---|-----------------------|
| 102 trout weighing | . | . | . | 186 lb. 6 oz.         |
| 86 grayling        | " | . | . | 129 " 3 "             |
| 37 jack            | " | . | . | 263 " 4 "             |
| 13 perch           | " | . | . | 16 " 5 "              |
|                    |   |   |   | <u>595 lb. 12 oz.</u> |

One of the worst seasons on record: the very worst if the number of rods is considered.

The fourth decade of the Club ended with 1862.

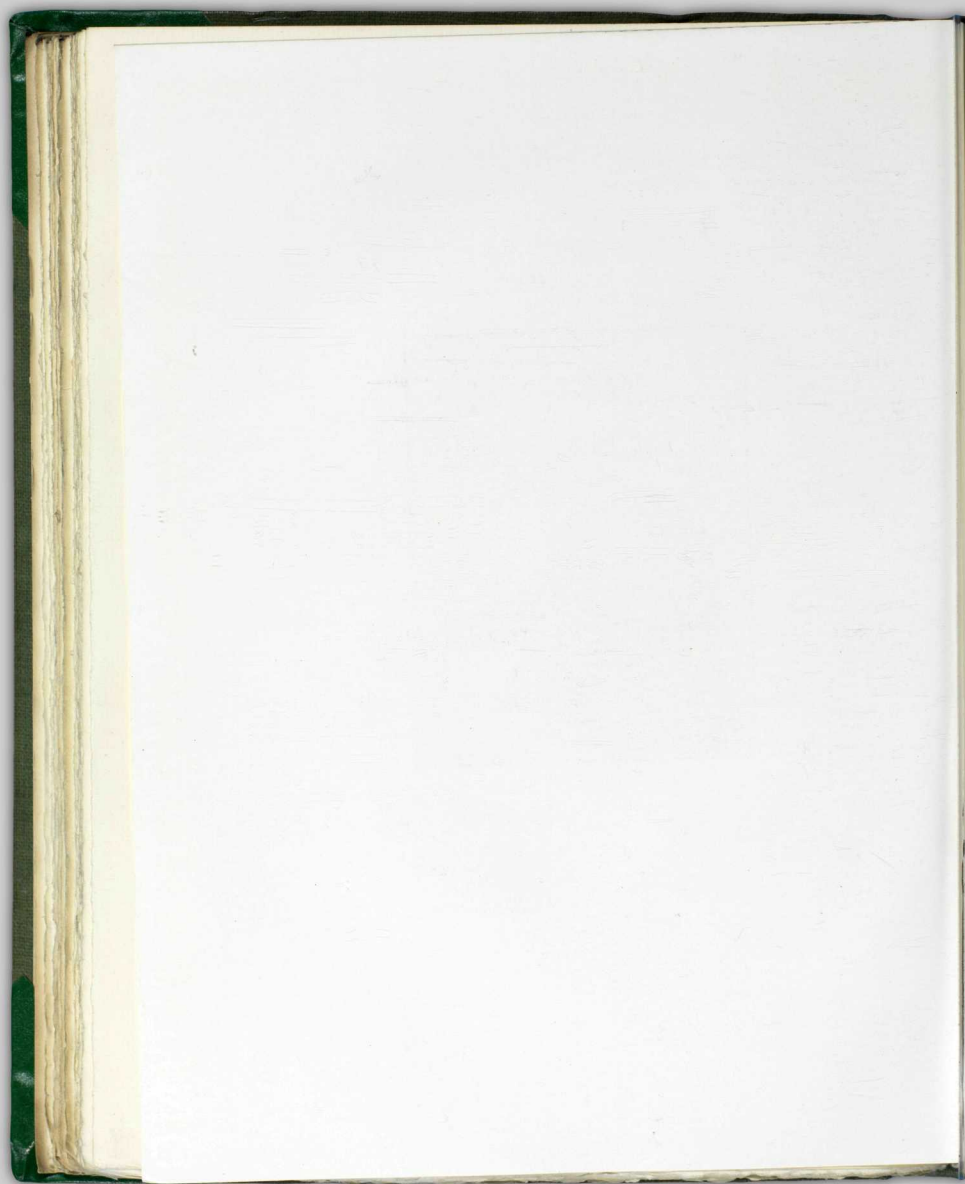
|           |                                       |                            |
|-----------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1823-1832 | 1658 trout weighing 2788 lb., average | 1 lb. 10 $\frac{7}{8}$ oz. |
|           | 1087 grayling " 1671 " "              | 1 " 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ "      |
| 1833-1842 | 1631 trout " 2986 " "                 | 1 " 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ "     |
|           | 1100 grayling " 1805 " "              | 1 " 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ "     |
| 1843-1852 | 1864 trout " 3537 " "                 | 1 " 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ "     |
|           | 1150 grayling " 2000 " "              | 1 " 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ "     |
| 1853-1862 | 2451 trout " 4571 " "                 | 1 " 13 $\frac{3}{4}$ "     |
|           | 661 grayling " 1161 " "               | 1 " 12 "                   |

Average weight of 120 fish in each decade, being the 12 largest fish in each year.

|           |   |   |   |              |
|-----------|---|---|---|--------------|
| 1823-1832 | . | . | . | 2 lb. 13 oz. |
| 1833-1842 | . | . | . | 3 " 5 "      |
| 1843-1852 | . | . | . | 3 " 1 "      |
| 1853-1862 | . | . | . | 3 " 0 "      |



MAJOR-GENERAL DIXON.



## 1863

2nd April.—Mr. Hood, a friend of Mr. M. T. Smith, caught in Bossington Waste an eel 2 lb. on a spinning minnow.

8th April.—A young otter has been killed by Faithful just below Bossington, half-grown, weighing 11 lb.

18th April.—Doolan and Faithful say they have not seen so much grannom for the last ten years as rose to-day.

21st April.—Another young otter caught at Bossington last night.

25th May.—Tent pitched and six to dinner. The cold of last night was excessive, the ground being quite white this morning. A sprinkling of Mayfly.

8th June.—Lord Aylesford killed a swift which passed beneath him as he threw his line, the bird striking the top joint of his rod.

11th June.—Mr. C. Corkran caught a trout of 2 lb. 6 oz. just above the bridge, which had an artificial caperer in its mouth, with the gut attached (*Mea culpa*, J. B[onham] C[arter]).

16th November.—A sudden storm of wind, with heavy rain, lasting only two or three minutes, has laid low the fine elm tree in the Tent field, and mortally damaged its neighbour. A distinguished general,<sup>1</sup> with a remarkably fine low voice, is supposed to have loosened its roots during the M.F. season. There is no other event to record, except the visits of several otters—four or five at least—which have hitherto baffled even Fidelian [Faithful's] skill. One hundred and twenty brace of fine fish from Whitchurch have been turned into the lower water. These fish, which came over in very small tubs during very mild weather, were preserved during the journey by constantly injecting air into the water with a common bellows. Out of fifty brace sent at the same time to other parties, only eight fish survived. We only lost ten or twelve.

There were caught in the Club waters during the year 1863—

|                    |   |   |   |                |
|--------------------|---|---|---|----------------|
| 151 trout weighing | . | . | . | 307 lb. 10 oz. |
| 65 grayling "      | . | . | . | 122 " 4 "      |
| 26 jack "          | . | . | . | 184 " 5 "      |
| 17 perch "         | . | . | . | 25 " 6 "       |
|                    |   |   |   | <hr/>          |
|                    |   |   |   | 639 lb. 9 oz.  |

Average weight of trout, 2 lb. 0.59 oz.

<sup>1</sup> General Dixon.

1864

11th April.—Lord George Beauclerk and Lt.-Col. Finch left London with a south-westerly wind; but, on arriving at Stockbridge about 2 o'clock, found a N.W. wind blowing. [Similar experience is frequently recorded in these journals; but indeed the phenomenon is necessarily a constant one. In Britain, except from the east, a straight-line wind is exceedingly rare; everything stronger than a very gentle air is almost invariably cyclonic and rotatory (except easterly currents). Consequently a traveller leaving London under the south-eastern, anterior segment of a cyclonic depression, in which the current is south-westerly, and travelling west, passes into the south-western segment where the current is north-westerly, and much cooler.—Ed.]

Three otters have been destroyed during the winter, and a fourth has been twice in the trap and escaped.

18th to 22nd April.—Grannom very plentiful: fish taking them freely.

5th May.—Lilac at Stockbridge about half in blossom. Beech tree in full leaf and blossom.

6th May.—Saw a Mayfly at Sheep Bridge, and at 4 P.M. six or seven "burnt fly" at Cooper's Mead. No fly has yet been seen on the Machine Ditch. Harris fixes the Mayfly for about May 27.

25th May.—A good rise of Mayfly in the lower water. Hardly wind enough to blow out [the blow line].

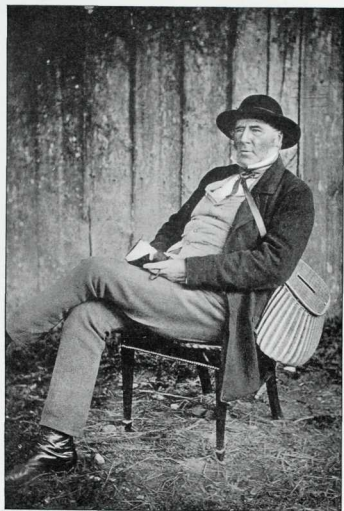
26th May.—Nothing like a cold day in May. The fish took the fly well. . . . Mr. Bonham Carter and Mr. Martin Smith were both broken by heavy fish during the day, and both recovered their tackle by recapturing the fish. Mr. Bonham Carter killed 15 trout and one grayling, weighing 34½ lb. (largest fish 3 lb. 10 oz. and 3¼ lb.); Mr. Martin Smith had seven trout weighing 17½ lb., three of them being each 3 lb. and upwards.

28th May.—Sir H. James killed a dabchick blowing a Mayfly: not a solitary instance. The bird gorged the fly.

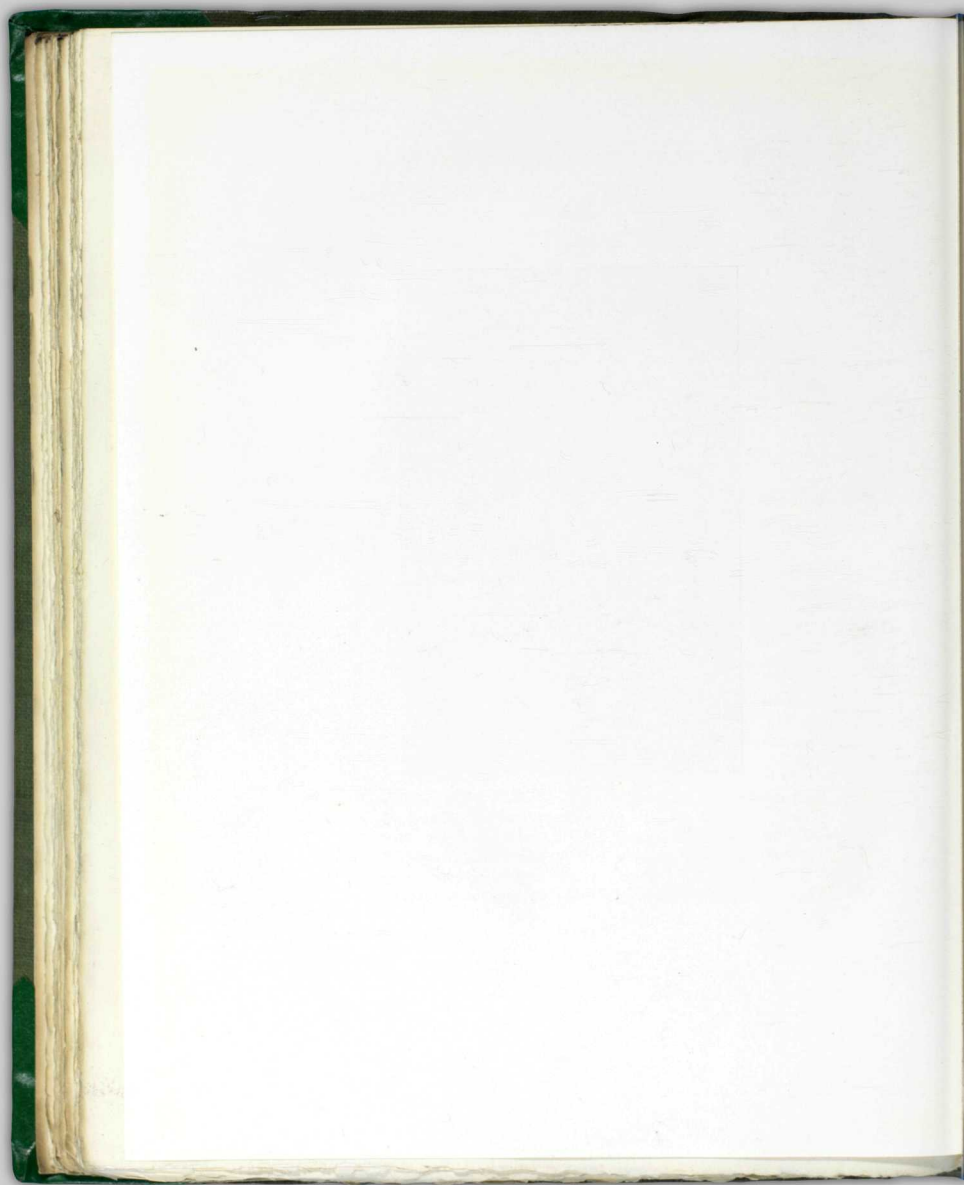
6th June.—Fly nearly over. . . . Mr. Corkran killed the fish of the season, 3 lb. 14 oz., in Goff Shallow, at the evening whipping. This fish was perfect in shape and colour.

13th November.—Two otters, which have long baffled Fidelian skill,





THE HON. EDWIN LASCELLES.



## 1865] THE HOUGHTON FISHING CLUB 117

were taken last week at the top of Mr. F. Walker's water. The female weighed 14 lb., the dog otter 23 lb. The female was caught first, and, the trap being set on the same spot, the dog otter returned to look for his missus and was caught an hour later. This makes six otters killed in 1864. [Another note states that nine otters were killed this season.—Ed.]

The removal of fish from Whitchurch this year has been a total failure. Nearly the whole were lost, owing to the spawning season being so unusually early, and the fish too far advanced to move with safety. About 150 fish, averaging 1 lb. each, died on the road here. All that was possible was done, and there was no blame to any one.

There were caught in the Club waters during the season 1864—

|                    |       |                      |
|--------------------|-------|----------------------|
| 208 trout weighing | . . . | 415 lb. 14 oz.       |
| 45 grayling „      | . . . | 83 „ 0 „             |
|                    |       | <hr/> 498 lb. 14 oz. |

Had the aggregate weight of trout been 2 oz. more, the average would have been just 2 lb.

Harris thinks that upwards of 100 wild ducks have nested about the Club waters and Mottisfont the last season, and that 13 or 14 snipes have had nests within the bounds of the Club. There were 4 or 5 snipe nests in one meadow.

## 1865

4th Feb.—Sir Henry James killed 5 jack weighing  $54\frac{1}{2}$  lb., and 1 perch  $2\frac{1}{2}$  lb. The largest jack weighed 27 lb., being the heaviest ever killed by any member in the Club water.

[In April of this year the railway to Stockbridge was opened, an event of prime importance in the annals of the Club.—Ed.]

10th April.—Mr. Corkran and Mr. Martin Smith commenced the year's operations, arriving this day by railway at 10 o'clock. We found Harris in a desponding mood. "There was no fly, and no rise—the grayling spawn looked very bad in the boxes—there was still an otter about," &c., &c. We were not to be daunted by these lugubrious dicta, and proceeded in high hope to the lower water. The usual accidents occurred to our new hooks and lines, showing the very discreditable inattention and care-

# 118 THE HOUGHTON FISHING CLUB [1866-

lessness of London fishing-tackle makers.<sup>1</sup> Mr. Martin Smith killed four trout weighing  $8\frac{1}{2}$  lb.

20th to 24th April.—Grannom very plentiful.

7th May.—Harris reports that 7 or 8 woodcocks and many larks had been picked up in the Stockbridge valley, killed by flying against the telegraph wires.

11th May.—Lilac in very full flower; laburnum nearly so. Saw three Mayflies.

26th May.—Eleven rods caught 32 trout and 6 grayling weighing 77 lb. 5 oz.

30th May.—Tent blown down in the night. A great rise of fish early in the evening, but before it was dark enough to deceive them.

31st May.—Mr. Corkran, blowing with Mayfly, was broken by a trout of 1 lb. 8 oz. A similar bait secured the fish and recovered the tackle within five minutes. Mr. C. was thus unfortunately deprived of a good opportunity for declaring that he had been broken by a four pounder.

There were caught in the Club waters during the year 1865—

|                    |   |   |   |         |       |
|--------------------|---|---|---|---------|-------|
| 238 trout weighing | . | . | . | 462 lb. | 7 oz. |
| 118 grayling "     | . | . | . | 182 "   | 12 "  |
|                    |   |   |   | 645 lb. | 3 oz. |
| 38 jack "          | . | . | . | 335 "   | 4 "   |
| 2 perch "          | . | . | . | 4 "     | 12 "  |
|                    |   |   |   | 985 lb. | 3 oz. |

## 1866

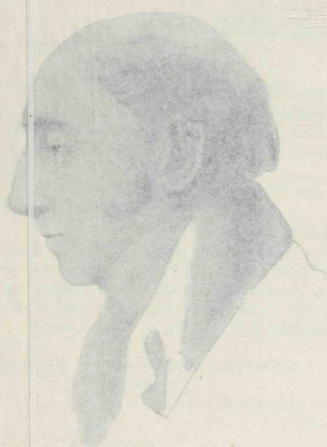
21st February.—Mr. Philip Norman killed a perch weighing 4 lb. in the Peat Pits, pronounced to be the largest ever killed in the Club waters.

30th March.—Sir Henry James took 5 jack in the Peat Pits—17, 16, 15, 14 and 12 lb.=74 lb.

[The pike received, as perhaps they deserved, no law from the members of the Club. These fish must have been on the eve of spawning.—Ed.]

23rd April.—Returning here this morning [Monday], we found Harris and Co. agghast at the events of yesterday. The grannom appears to have

<sup>1</sup> Forty years have surely wrought a great change in this respect.—Ed.



Prof. James H. Thompson  
T. M. Smith & Co., N.Y.



# 118 THE HOUGHTON FISHING CLUB [1866-

lessness of London fishing-tackle makers. Mr. Martin Smith killed four trout weighing  $2\frac{1}{2}$  lb.

20th to 24th April.—Grannom very plentiful.

7th May.—Harris reports that 7 or 8 woodcock and many larks had been picked up in the Stockbridge valley, killed by flying against the telegraph wires.

11th May.—Lilac in very full flower; laburnum nearly so. Saw three Mayflies.

26th May.—Eleven rods caught 32 trout and 6 grayling weighing 77 lb. 5 oz.

30th May.—Tent blown down in the night. A great rise of fish early in the evening, but before it was dark enough to deceive them.

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There were caught in the Club waters during the year 1865—

|                    |               |
|--------------------|---------------|
| 228 trout weighing | 462 lb. 7 oz. |
| 117 grayling "     | 182 " 12 "    |
|                    | 645 lb. 3 oz. |
| 38 jack "          | 335 " 4 "     |
| 2 perch "          | 4 " 12 "      |
|                    | 985 lb. 3 oz. |

## 1866

21st February.—Mr. Philip Norman killed a perch weighing 4 lb. in the Peat Pits, pronounced to be the largest ever killed in the Club waters.

30th March.—Sir Henry James took 5 jack in the Peat Pits—17, 16, 15, 14 and 12 lb.=74 lb.

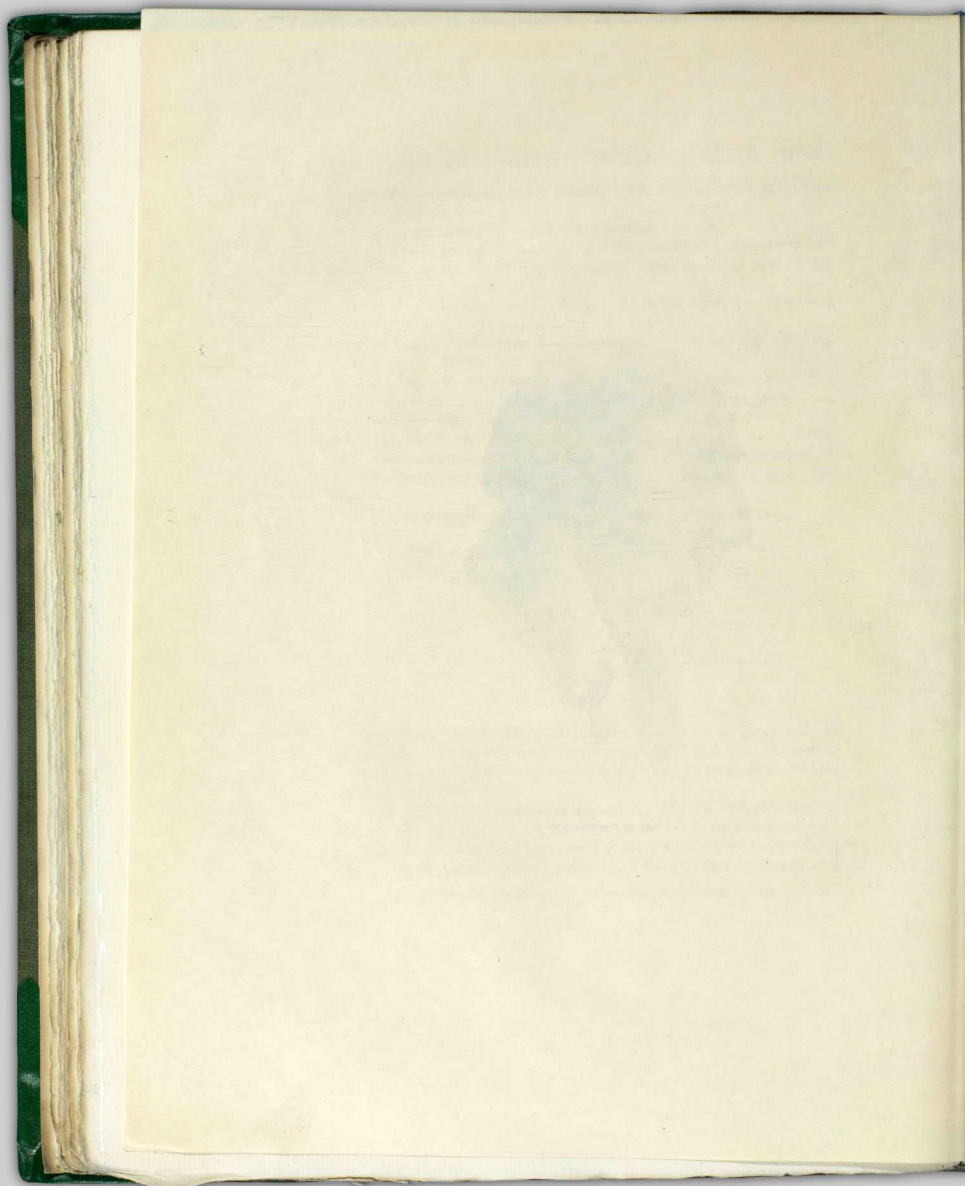
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23rd April.—Returning here this morning [Monday], we found Harris and Co. agitated at the events of yesterday. The grannom appears to have

<sup>1</sup> Forty years have surely wrought a great change in this respect.—Ed.



REV. CANON F. BEADON.  
*By Sir Francis Chantrey, R.A.*



# 1867] THE HOUGHTON FISHING CLUB 119

come up all over the river in unheard-of quantities, so as to astonish the oldest hands.

There were caught in the Club waters in the year 1866—

|                    |                |
|--------------------|----------------|
| 248 trout weighing | 482 lb. 4 oz.  |
| 60 grayling „      | 108 „ 5 „      |
|                    | 590 lb. 9 oz.  |
| 47 jack „          | 398 „ 10 „     |
| 38 perch „         | 36 „ 0 „       |
|                    | 1025 lb. 3 oz. |

Average weight of trout 1 lb. 15 $\frac{1}{10}$  oz.

„ „ grayling 1 lb. 12 $\frac{3}{8}$  oz.

“The Rev. Canon Beadon, who is at present at Wells Cathedral as Canon in residence, will terminate his three months' duty on Monday. He only a short time ago attained the great age of ninety years, and is yet able to take his share of the service as well as men fifty years his junior.”—*Gloucester Chronicle*, 29 Sept. 1866.

[If the above extract be accurate as to Canon Beadon's age, he must have been 100 when the following letter was written.]

January 29, '77.

DEAR SIR,—I have received your official letter and wish to say that if one member only is likely to be returned, I will vote for Capt. Campbell, but, should the other members of the Club desire to have two members, I will also vote for Mr. L. Cave. I wish also to add that, as I am now from age, &c., &c., &c., a useless member of the body, I am ready at once to resign my membership.

Suppose, therefore, that you erase my name from the list.

Dear Sir,

Very faithfully yours,

F. BEADON.

1867

27th February.—The keepers, alas! give a very poor account of the grayling. It is submitted to the Club that measures should be devised without delay to restore this great treasure to our waters.

23rd April.—A great rise of grannom to-day about 10 o'clock. [They lasted in great abundance till 4th May.]

120 THE HOUGHTON FISHING CLUB [1867

23rd May.—Snow fell in considerable quantities in many parts of England, and as far south as Cowes.

The Mayfly has been very short in quantity this season in all parts of the river, and, as was the case last year, very few fish were taken with it. The west winds and cloudy sky which prevailed on most days during the Club meeting brought up myriads of picket wing [duns], and the fish preferred their old to their new friends. The best days' fishing were on this account found to be bright ones. No burnt fly has been seen at all; but the enormous rise of Mayfly in the Machine-barn Ditch, the very year after it had been cleaned out two spit deep (1864) proves that this circumstance need have no effect on future years' sport. . . . As a rule, the fish have been deficient in condition, owing no doubt to the severe spring.<sup>1</sup>

7th July.—Sixty-one dozen of grayling and trout, the latter in very small proportion, were fetched from Romsey and turned into the stream which comes from the miller's garden wall, and empties into the river about 50 yards above the bridge at Stockbridge. They stand, I fear, a bad chance in the present high state of the water, and most of them are probably half way back to Romsey. The stream from which they were taken runs through Romsey, and is cleaned out every year for sanitary reasons and a like number of fish of the year annually taken and usually destroyed.

20th July.—The Stockbridge artillery turn out at dusk in pursuit of flappers, and the popping is something tremendous.<sup>2</sup>

1st-3rd Aug.—I leave others to draw their own conclusions as to the weather, when they learn that Mr. Newman and the writer were obliged to have good fires night and morning during the two days they spent here. No morning rise—no evening rise—not even a moonrise.

2nd Sept.—There is only one precedent of any visit at this season to this place by a member of the Club; but as that was highly successful, Mr. Corkran and Mr. Martin Smith, with a visitor, determined to try their luck in this unusual month of September. Weather hot—zeal hotter—hope at boiling point. [They took in three days 5 trout weighing 10½ lb. and 8 grayling weighing 10½ lb.]

4th Sept.—A jack of 12 lb. taken on a trimmer in Park Stream. It had been hooked in Butt's Larder last year, but escaped. Two large

<sup>1</sup> Despite the unusual abundance of grannom and duns.—Ed.

<sup>2</sup> Flappers are now protected under the Wild Birds Acts till 1st August.—Ed.



## 1867] THE HOUGHTON FISHING CLUB 121

hooks and 5 inches of wire were found in him, which notwithstanding he was in admirable condition.

5th Nov.—James Faithful found this day a live Mayfly. It is said that the Peat Pits are impossible, owing to weeds, and that they are rapidly filling up. Can any remedy be found for an evil which threatens the loss of one branch of sport.

6th Nov.—Mr. Philip Norman on the margin of the Peat Pits shot 6 couple of snipe.

There were caught in the Club waters in the year 1867—

|                            |                       |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 232 trout weighing . . . . | 463 lb. 1 oz.         |
| 44 grayling „ . . . .      | 76 „ 2 „              |
|                            | 539 lb. 3 oz.         |
| 29 jack „ . . . .          | 195 „ 8 „             |
| 7 perch „ . . . .          | 8 „ 0 „               |
|                            | <u>742 lb. 11 oz.</u> |

Average weight of trout 1 lb. 15 $\frac{3}{8}$  oz.

He who has been accustomed to make this annual record for many years is no more—one who watched over every detail of the Club's interest with unceasing attention, and to whom its lengthened existence and success is greatly due.

His attachment to the place and its amusements was almost romantic, and during his times of health and strength he was the foremost of every rod on the river in every branch of the art of fishing.

Having been a contemporary of Wollaston and Chantrey, Barnard and Penn, he possessed an unbounded recollection of the unwritten lore and palmiest days of the Club, and an intimate knowledge of its rights and management.

I should not be justified in going further. I wish only to give expression to the personal loss that each member of our small community has sustained in the death of HENRY NORMAN; but those who knew his incomparable manly character and earnest friendship will agree with me that—*Nemo sane cui notus fuit vivum non dilexit, non luet mortuum.*

# 122 THE HOUGHTON FISHING CLUB [1868

WRITTEN BY CANON BEADON, AT THE AGE OF EIGHTY-NINE,  
IN ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF A PRESENT OF TROUT

No better trout a man could feed on  
Than those you sent to Canon Beadon;  
Firm was their flesh, and scarce—I think—  
Was ever pretty face so pink.

1868

26th February.—Mr. Edward Norman, while trolling in the Peat Pits, caught a small gull, which eagerly followed and seized the bait.

20th May.—Lord Aylesford succeeded in landing a jack which seized a small dace which had taken his fly.

21st May.—First fish caught with Mayfly.

2nd June.—No evening rise. It is now *two years* since we had one.

24th September.—The tropical heat of the summer has stopped the rise of the picket wing [duns], and throughout the season no evening sport could be obtained.

31st October.—A grayling,  $1\frac{3}{4}$  lb., killed to-day with a very likely fly in its mouth, and about a foot of gut. This was sent by the captor to Col. Finch, as having been probably once his property.

There were caught in the Club waters in the year 1868—

|                            |                      |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| 242 trout weighing . . . . | 513 lb. 14 oz.       |
| 57 grayling „ . . . .      | 102 „ 14 „           |
|                            | <hr/> 616 lb. 12 oz. |
| 30 jack „ . . . .          | 258 „ 14 „           |
| 1 perch „ . . . .          | 2 „ 0 „              |
| 2 tench „ . . . .          | 6 „ 10 „             |
|                            | <hr/> 884 lb. 4 oz.  |

Had the aggregate weight of trout been 6 oz. more the average weight would have been 2 lb. 2 oz.

1869

19th April.—A trout of 2 lb. 2 oz. hooked by Mr. M. Ridley Smith broke away with some 15 yards of floss silk. Mr. M. R. S. got hold of the line, played and killed him.

23rd April.—Harris found two Mayflies, and Colonel Finch one, in Cooper's Mead, an event quite unprecedented at this time of year.

24th April.—More Mayfly seen in Cooper's Mead. A wild duck's nest discovered in a pollard at the beginning of the old river, with ten eggs. It is about ten feet from the ground.

25th April.—The quantity of grannom on the water was unprecedented.

21st May.—Mr. M. R. Smith announced, with much loftiness of expression, that he was not going to make a toil of a pleasure, and arrived in the middle of the day, accompanied by a big black dog.

N.B.—Certain "vermifuge" pills which the infirmities of the beast (the dog) render necessary, were nearly, if not quite, taken by mistake by his (*not* the dog's) respected parent.

The weather for the last fortnight has been very cold. In spite of this the M.F. appears unusually early. In the *Field* of May 15 correspondents from Wimborne and the *Itchen* announce its early appearance. Vegetation is not so forward as usual in the M.F. season. Lilac, laburnum and horse-chestnut have only just passed the full blossom.

Tent pitched this day.

27th May.—Anyone wishing to see great ends accomplished with apparently inadequate means should ask Harris to bale out a boat with a punt pole!

29th May.—Prospects of frost. Weather too severe to dine in the tent.

30th May.—Severe frost, cutting up early vegetables.

3rd June.—General Dixon, not satisfied with matutinal ablutions, took a mid-day bath in the open river; but, in the interests of morality, he kept his clothes on. Mrs. Flowers took an active part in his rescue, and it is proposed that the Club should present her with a medal for preserving to his country and the Club so inestimable a life, as also for the merit of landing by far the heaviest "object" that was ever taken out of the river.

13th October.—The mud and gravel in one part of the Peat Pits has

# 124 THE HOUGHTON FISHING CLUB [1870-

been excavated to the depth of 6 feet, and there is now a clear space of 20 yards square in which there is excellent trolling for jack or perch, both of which abound.

There were caught in the Club waters in the year 1869—

|                              |                       |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 251 trout weighing . . . . . | 537 lb. 3 oz.         |
| 31 grayling „ . . . . .      | 63 „ 9 „              |
|                              | 620 lb. 12 oz.        |
| 19 jack „ . . . . .          | 127 „ 7 „             |
| 4 perch „ . . . . .          | 8 „ 3 „               |
| 3 tench „ . . . . .          | 11 „ 4 „              |
|                              | <u>747 lb. 10 oz.</u> |

Average weight of trout 2 lb. 2½ oz.

## 1870

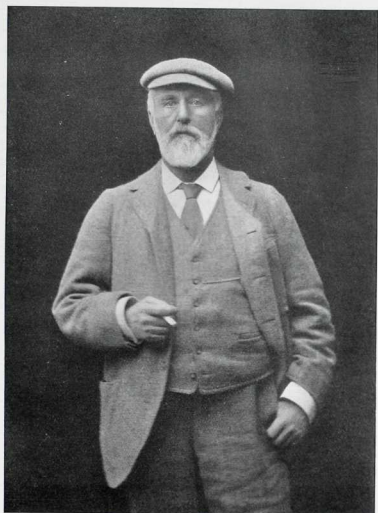
1st March.—This day being, as he supposes, Shrove Tuesday, Lord Ducie would invite attention to the hostess's pancakes, with which he was regaled at dinner. They were of a size, quality, and consistency not often seen in these days of retrenchment. Large and satisfying, they were much like a folded railway rug in everything but flavour; but, withal, not to be despised.

23rd May.—An unusual appearance of the Mayfly to-day deserves notice, for I believe there is no record of its rise in any quantity before 24th or 25th. Another event of greater importance is the appearance of the American weed in several parts of the river.

The nursery for young fish, which has been formed between the stone weir and Asham's wire, promises to be a great success, and we have now about 2000 young trout in it, apparently doing well. A very cold night in February produced a quantity of ground ice, covering the spawn which had been made there by artificial breeding, and killed a good portion of it; but such an occurrence does not take place twice in twenty years, and we need not anticipate its effect in future with any alarm.

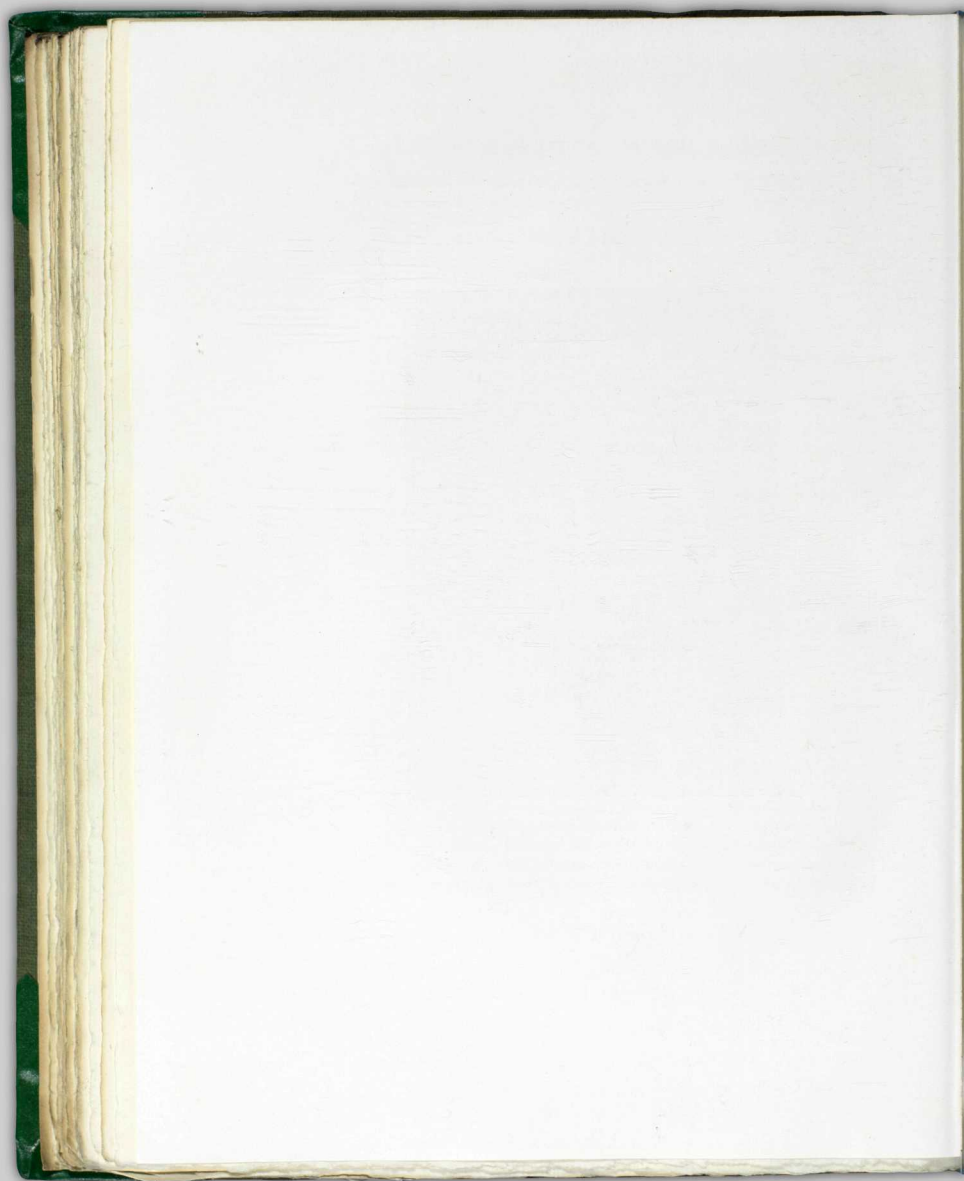
Can any learned member of the Club explain the *rationale* of "ground ice," when the top water flows as usual, while all the bottom water is frozen. Are there two temperatures, and the warmest (at bottom) freezes





MARTIN RIDLEY SMITH.





## 1871] THE HOUGHTON FISHING CLUB 125

first? or are there two rates of speed in the water, so that the surface water runs faster than that below, and too fast to freeze?<sup>1</sup>

31st May.—Seven rods took 17 trout and one grayling weighing 49 lb. 15 oz., an average of 2 lb. 15 oz. or within a fraction of 3 lb. Two fish weighed  $4\frac{1}{2}$  and  $4\frac{1}{2}$  each, and five were  $3\frac{3}{4}$ ,  $3\frac{5}{8}$ ,  $3\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $3\frac{1}{4}$ , and  $3\frac{1}{4}$  lb. But seven of the 17 fish were taken by Lord Ducie in Mr. Walker's water at Bossington.

22nd August.—Mr. Martin Smith had seven grayling in Bossington Pond weighing 14 lb. 13 oz.

25th August.—The new hole cut in the Peat Pits is smothered with weeds.

There were caught in the Club waters in the year 1870—

|                    |   |   |   |                |
|--------------------|---|---|---|----------------|
| 126 trout weighing | . | . | . | 321 lb. 12 oz. |
| 38 grayling "      | . | . | . | 79 " 5 "       |
|                    |   |   |   | 401 lb. 1 oz.  |
| 29 jack            | " | . | . | 210 " 12 "     |
| 1 perch            | " | . | . | 2 " 10 "       |
|                    |   |   |   | 614 lb. 7 oz.  |

Average weight of trout 2 lb. 5.85 oz.

## 1871

13th April.—The grannom, which first appeared on the 10th inst., rose this morning between 9 and 10 A.M., and had nearly ceased when I began at 11. Fish in excellent condition and very strong.

Our new landlord, Mr. Wickham, M.D., from Winchester, has been here frequently. He avows friendly disposition. . . . The keepers report the breeding season to have been unusually bad, owing to the severity of the winter. Those bred in our *machine des enfants* have done better than those in the main river. Those of last year, now a fair size and capable of taking care of themselves, are about to be turned out in Asham's Arms and Asham's river. Their number is uncertain, but there are quite 1000 of them. Only two otters have been killed. One

<sup>1</sup> Undoubtedly the lower layers of water, being interrupted by the inequalities of the bottom, travel slower than the upper layers.—ED.

# 126 THE HOUGHTON FISHING CLUB [1872-

of them was caught just below Bossington, but his footprints in the snow proved his frequent visits to us last winter. He weighed 29 lb.

*27th June.*—The wind was either N.E. or N.W. during the whole of the late Mayfly season, and on the 9th June—the day after the members left, it changed to S.W., and has continued so more or less ever since. Tempted by this, and the hope of one evening's whipping, which we have not had during the whole year, Mr. Martin T. Smith returned here on the 27th June for three days. Result, 6 trout weighing 13 $\frac{3}{4}$  lb.

The Mayfly in the season 1871 was most abundant in our fishings; but Mr. Walker [at Bossington], who usually has so much, was obliged to send his man to pick fly on our ground for his fishing.

There were caught in the Club waters in the year 1871—

|                    |   |   |   |                     |
|--------------------|---|---|---|---------------------|
| 164 trout weighing | . | . | . | 334 lb. 4 oz.       |
| 35 grayling „      | . | . | . | 64 „ 1 „            |
|                    |   |   |   | <hr/> 398 lb. 5 oz. |
| 13 jack „          | . | . | . | 84 „ 4 „            |
| 2 perch „          | . | . | . | 2 „ 8 „             |
|                    |   |   |   | <hr/> 485 lb. 1 oz. |

## 1872

*7th March.*—Mr. Norman got only three runs in the Peat Pits, and brought nothing back to the hotel; yet he had in his landing net a jack so large that, when partially lifted out of the water, the weight of the tail and part of the body overbalanced the head, and the fish swayed over the rim of the net, and regained the water. A hook caught in the net, and Freemantle was enabled subsequently to handle the fish, until the hook broke and the jack escaped. His weight certainly exceeded 20 lbs. Alas! alas! what a mishap; especially for a piscator aged 78, who can hardly hope for such another chance.

*Sunday, 26th May.*—A quantity of chaff having been observed about the street, it was explained that, when a Stockbridge man beats his wife, it is the custom to strew chaff before his door, and to serenade him with rough music. No less than three cases occurred in one day last week; hence the quantity of chaff.

## 1873] THE HOUGHTON FISHING CLUB 127

There were caught in the Club waters in the year 1872—

|                    |   |   |   |         |        |
|--------------------|---|---|---|---------|--------|
| 187 trout weighing | . | . | . | 380 lb. | 5 oz.  |
| 62 grayling "      | . | . | . | 102 "   | 7 "    |
|                    |   |   |   | 482 lb. | 12 oz. |
| — jack             | " | . | . | 280 "   | 0 "    |
| 1 tench            | " | . | . | 3 "     | 4 "    |
|                    |   |   |   | 766 lb. | 0 oz.  |

## 1873

8th March.—Captain Beadon killed a jack in the Peat Pits, weight,  $25\frac{1}{2}$  lb.; length, 42 inches; girth,  $21\frac{1}{2}$  inches; fate, to be eaten by the Mess of the 60th Rifles, who pronounced her excellent.

26th May.—Lilac, laburnum, horse-chestnut in full flower. Elder not yet in flower. Vegetation backward. *Vide May 21, 1869.*

2nd June.—Lord Ducie caught a trout of 4 lb. 10 oz. "blowing" with caperer at North Head.

Through the kindness of Mr. Thomas Chamberlain of Cranbury Park,  $17\frac{1}{2}$  brace of grayling from the Itchen have been turned into the river above the town at the tail of the mill. Of these fish, 12 or 13 weighed 2 lb. and upwards.

The record of the year should not be allowed to pass without mentioning (though in as few words as possible) the loss by the Club of some of the very best of its water, which was bought by Dr. Wickham of Winchester of Mr. Charles Warner in the year 1871.

There were caught in the Club waters in the year 1873—

|                    |   |   |   |         |        |
|--------------------|---|---|---|---------|--------|
| 135 trout weighing | . | . | . | 277 lb. | 12 oz. |
| 34 grayling "      | . | . | . | 59 "    | 5 "    |
|                    |   |   |   | 337 lb. | 1 oz.  |
| 8 jack             | " | . | . | 55 "    | 8 "    |
|                    |   |   |   | 392 lb. | 9 oz.  |

Average weight of trout 2 lb. .88 oz.

## 1874

22nd May.—The enemy [Mr. Wickham's party] mustered strong on the opposite bank, six or eight of them, and flogged away with much perseverance, but without results.

5th June.—Harris [fisherman] caught [with net] a trout in Cooper's Mead carrier weighing 5 lb. 5 oz., a superb fish in perfect condition.

There were caught in the Club waters in the year 1874—

|                             |                      |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| 70 trout weighing . . . . . | 151 lb. 3 oz.        |
| 9 grayling " . . . . .      | 16 " 4 "             |
| 14 jack " . . . . .         | 103 " 8 "            |
|                             | <hr/> 270 lb. 15 oz. |

Average weight of trout 2 lb.

## 1875

There were caught in the Club waters in the year 1875—

|                             |                     |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| 62 trout weighing . . . . . | 115 lb. 4 oz.       |
| 2 grayling " . . . . .      | 3 " 14 "            |
|                             | <hr/> 119 lb. 2 oz. |
| 21 jack " . . . . .         | 168 " 1 "           |
|                             | <hr/> 287 lb. 3 oz. |

Average weight of trout 1 lb. 13½ oz.

N.B.—Three of these trout, weighing 7½ lb., were taken in Mr. Swires's water.

## 1876

[The following is worth preserving, both as a memento of an old and trusted servant and as an example of phonetic literature.]

HOUGHTON, Feb. 10, '76.

SIR,—I am sorey I hav not cept aney account of the eels that hav ben cot at marshcorte a sinsee mickelmes last as I dont mind payen



# 1877] THE HOUGHTON FISHING CLUB 129

the rent this year If you dont wish me to do so I must pay the half year up to the 25 of march.

Pleas sir let me no as I shant know wot to do about geten the things rede for a nother year. I am hapey to say I am beter but verey wek war the paine setele.—From yours obedet,

JAMES FAITHFULL, *Houghton.*

22nd February.—Mr. Norman killed a jack in the Peat Pits 25½ lb. It broke the line and took away the tackle, but was recaptured with the lost tackle about an hour later. Two jack of 18 lb. were killed on 21st and 22nd.

29th May.—Horse-chestnut, lilac and laburnum, which should all be out of flower at the Mayfly time, are yet in full bloom, and the elder, which should be in blossom, is only in bud.

30th May.—First Mayfly and capers seen.

2nd June.—A fine dog otter of 21 lb. was caught by Faithful on Black Lake.

19th June.—Col. Wigram saw a rat swimming, threw at him and hooked him by near hind foot and landed him.

There were caught in the Club waters in the year 1876—

|                             |                       |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 80 trout weighing . . . . . | 156 lb. 7 oz.         |
| 2 grayling „ . . . . .      | 3 „ 8 „               |
|                             | <u>159 lb. 15 oz.</u> |

Average weight of trout 1 lb. 13½ oz.

## 1877

4th May.—Ice as thick as a shilling.

1st June.—Violent thunderstorm. Tent blown down.

2nd August.—Duck-shooting, under the recent law, commenced yesterday, and from a quarter to 3 o'clock A.M. to some time after 10 P.M. the firing was incessant. Mr. Flower, our very obliging friend, had a party of light skirmishers who, together, killed 32 of the enemy. No chance presented itself, either morning or evening, of killing a fish.

# 130 THE HOUGHTON FISHING CLUB [1878-

There were caught in the Club waters in the year 1877—

|                             |                      |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| 99 trout weighing . . . . . | 189 lb. 4 oz.        |
| 1 grayling „ . . . . .      | 2 „ 6 „              |
| 16 jack „ . . . . .         | 147 „ 8 „            |
|                             | <u>339 lb. 2 oz.</u> |

Average weight of trout 1 lb. 14½ oz.

General Sir HENRY JAMES, R.E., died this year, aged 74. He was Director of the Geological Survey of Ireland, and in 1854 was appointed to conduct the Ordnance Trigonometrical Survey of Great Britain.

In November 201 fish averaging 1½ lb. each were taken from the Broughton Water and turned into the Park Stream. Some of them weighed up to 2½ lb., and not one was lost in conveying them to the river.

The turnpike by the town bridge was demolished in the autumn of 1877.

## 1878

25th January.—Very cold, with snow at intervals, line freezing to the rod. Mr. Norman caught 3 jack, 22¾, 21¼ and 17 lb.

24th January.—Mr. Cave killed 3 jack, 21½, 18 and 15¼ lb.

26th January.—Mr. Norman killed 4 jack, 23½, 17, 12¾ and 12 lb.

15th February.—Mr. Wilder (a friend of Mr. Norman's) killed 6 jack weighing 21, 16½, 15½, 12, 11½, 9¾ lb.

16th February.—Mr. Wilder killed 6 jack weighing 20, 18, 18, 17½, 10 and 9 lb.

[The above constitutes a very remarkable record in pike fishing. In six days, one rod a day, 22 jack were taken weighing 359¾ lb., an average of 16 lb.—ED.]

A fine female otter was caught by Faithful opposite Arundel's.

31st May.—Mr. Norman hooked a dabchick in the evening in Cooper's Mead, with an artificial caperer.

1879] THE HOUGHTON FISHING CLUB 131

11th May.—Forty-one brace of trout turned into the river from the nursery.

1st and 8th August.—Mr. Herbert Norman came down for evening fishing, but cannot recommend other members to do so at this time of year. The fish rose well in Cooper's Mead and North Head about 8.30 for half an hour on both evenings at some small fly, but were very shy. No chance whatever during the day. Mr. Norman caught one small grayling.

29th Nov.—The Broughton water produced this year 290 trout, some of them up to 2 lb. weight: average fully 1 lb. These were turned into the Club water.

30th.—Swallows seen at North Head, three or four.

There was spent in 1878 the sum of £19, 10s. in making new spawning beds in the Park Stream. It is very satisfactory to learn from the keepers that large numbers of trout used them during the spawning season.

1879

Owing to the extreme cold of this winter (1878-9) trout were very late in spawning, several having been seen doing so as late as 2nd March.

13th April.—A very heavy fall of snow this morning.

"And the fishers shall mourn, and they that cast angle in the brooks shall lament."

A great year for grannom.

29th May.—A singularly late spring. Lilac and horse-chestnut only just coming into full flower. At this date they are generally in seed.

2nd June.—Lord Ducie caught 5 trout weighing  $13\frac{1}{2}$  lb.; largest  $4\frac{1}{4}$  lb.

156 trout produced by Broughton water and turned in, except 20 which were exchanged for grayling with Mr. Deverell of Bossington.

52 trout were turned in from the nursery.

A very wet cold summer; the tent was not put up for the Mayfly.

The artificial spawning beds in Park Stream were further enlarged.

The Club this year rented Mr. Footner's water for the first time.

On 10th June 1879, at the age of 101 years and 6 months, died the Rev. FREDERICK BEADON, Canon Residentiary of Wells, and for 60 years Rector of North Stoneham near Southampton. His father had previously held this living for 49 years, thus making up between them a continuous incumbency of 118 years. Belonging as he did to a bygone generation, his genial manners, his ardent affection for this place and river, and his enthusiastic love of the sport, must be remembered by but few of us; yet it is no common interest that attaches to him—an indubitable centenarian—who was the founder, and an original member, of our little community. His last attendance at the Mayfly was in 1864, and he retired from the Club in 1876; but up to his last moments he took the keenest interest in our welfare, and never ceased to listen with pleasure to the record of our sport and proceedings.

At the age of 91 he wrote Mr. Martin T. Smith—*"N. Stoneham, 26th May 1868.—. . . Yesterday I caught a brace of trout—one 2 lb. 8 oz., and thank God, as my health is good, I shall try to catch more; but, of course, I cannot see, as well as formerly, the fly on the water."*

## 1880

12th February.—Mr. Norman killed in the Peat Pits a splendid tench of  $4\frac{1}{2}$  lb.; and on 27th February, on pike tackle, a perch of 4 lb.

A great grannom year.

29th April.—26 grayling, some of them 1 lb. weight, turned in from Mr. Deverell of Bossington.

25th May.—Mr. Norman presented to the Club a magnificent candelabrum, for which thanks were voted.

260 trout from Broughton water of good size turned in and 50 from the Nursery. The spawning beds in Park Stream were further enlarged.



# 1881] THE HOUGHTON FISHING CLUB 133

The fish use them freely and this experiment is clearly turning out most satisfactorily.

Half the Borough Water has been thoroughly cleaned from the top down to the lower shallow below the Broken Bridge, uncovering, it is believed for the first time since the creation, some beautiful gravel beds.

The thanks of the Club are due to Mr. Denison and Mr. Martin R. Smith for their kind present of bridges.

It is with deep feelings of concern and sympathy that we have to record the death of Mr. MARTIN TUCKER SMITH, M.P. for Wycombe, one of our oldest and most esteemed members, who, up to the last, was *primus inter pares* in the piscatorial art.

The older members of the Club will hear with regret of the death of our old and esteemed friend and landlady, Mrs. JANE SCOTT.

## 1881

|  |                      |
|--|----------------------|
| 18th February.—Major Beadon killed in the Peat         |                      |
| Pitts nine jack weighing . . . . .                     | 103 lb. 5 oz.        |
| largest fish 20 lb., and Mr. Norman took four weighing | 59 „ 12 „            |
| largest 23 lb.   | <u>163 lb. 1 oz.</u> |

On the 19th Major Beadon caught five jack weighing 55 lb., largest fish 23½ lb., and Mr. Norman killed two weighing together 23½ lb.

A great grannom year.

4th Nov.—300 trout taken from Broughton Water were turned into the Club Water, except 30 sent to Mr. Deverell.



134 THE HOUGHTON FISHING CLUB [1882-

1882

*3rd February.*—Mr. Norman and Colonel Beadon killed eighteen jack in the Peat Pits weighing 219½ lb. Largest fish 20½ lb.

[This proved to be another great year for grannom, one of a succession of seasons when this pretty fly abounded in the Houghton water. "Wonderful," "extraordinary," "incredible," are some of the epithets with which, in the Journal, anglers describe the profusion of the rise. By all accounts, at the present time (1908) and for several seasons past, both grannom and Mayfly have been very scarce in this part of the Test; but anglers should not despair; over the long period covered by the Club journals there is apparent an alternation of dearth and abundance, each extending over several consecutive seasons, and recurring with a regularity similar to the fluctuations of trade.—Ed.]

*Note by LORD DUCIE*

*26th April.*—A mild winter, passing imperceptibly into an early spring. The East winds have arrived in a mitigated state. At this date horse-chestnut and lilac are in full bloom; laburnum, generally an incident of the Mayfly season, is flowering in sheltered places; vegetation is at least 3 weeks earlier than the average. The grannom was a week or so before its usual time, and if the temperature of May does not fall below the usual standard, the Mayfly may be looked for about May 20. It should be remembered, however, that as the larvæ are developed under water, which does not respond entirely to climatic influence, insect and vegetable life must not be expected to maintain an identical rate of progress.

[This forecast proved singularly accurate, the first Mayfly being seen on 20th May.—Ed.]

20th May.—The Club cannot commence the Mayfly season of 1882 without placing on record their deep sense of the loss they have sustained by the death of the good fisherman, genial companion and kind friend, Colonel the Hon. DANIEL FINCH, who died after a short illness on 22nd February, aged 55.

6th June.—Colonel Corkran killed 8 trout weighing 19 lb. 4 oz.: largest 5 lb. 9 oz., being the heaviest known to have been taken with the fly from the Stockbridge Water previous to that date [see July 2, 1890]. It was caught blowing natural Mayfly about 100 yards below the bridge at Black Lake on the east bank.

16th Dec.—Colonel Beadon and Mr. Norman took eight jack in the Peat Pits weighing 79½ lb.: largest 17½ lb., and a tench 4½ lb.

A pair of salmon were seen by Faithful in November spawning on the shallow below Park Bridge. The river was too high all the autumn and winter to allow netting in the Broughton water, so no fish were obtained there for turning into the Club water.

### 1883

It was decided at the Mayfly meeting that no member should for the future have the right to bring a friend to fish except from 16th June inclusive to the end of the season.

600 trout, averaging  $\frac{3}{4}$  lb., were taken from Broughton water and turned in.

### 1884

A pair of large salmon, about 20 and 15 lb., spawned at the top of North Head.

The Broughton water was taken over by Messrs. M. R. Smith and E. Hambro.

In December Mr. JOHN BONHAM-CARTER died. He represented Winchester from 1847 to 1874, being appointed a Lord of the Treasury in 1866 and afterwards Chairman of Committee in the House of Commons. He married 1st Laura Maria, youngest daughter of Mr. Nicholson of Waverley Abbey, and 2nd the Hon. Mary, eldest daughter of the first Lord Northbrook.

## 1885

*January.*—Four wild Swans appeared in the valley. So exhausted were the poor birds on arriving that one was caught in a net. Another was shot; the remaining pair took refuge in the Peat Pits and were shot and left by Mr. Norman. The whole population was up in arms against them, and there was no chance at all of preserving their lives. They were presented to the British Museum and pronounced to be *Cygnus olor*. [In other words, they were not wild swans at all, but mute swans of the domesticated species. It might save the lives of many of these birds were it commonly understood that the mute swan has an *orange* bill, shaped like a duck's, with a black knob between the nostrils, whereas all the wild species that visit this country have bills shaped like a goose's, coloured *yellow* and black, but without any knob between the nostrils. This difference is easily distinguishable upon any birds within gunshot. —ED.]

*4th June.*—Faithful saw six young stoats swim after their mother across the river, like a brood of young ducks. With the first blow of his stick he killed four, and with the second two, the mother escaping. Returning to the spot half an hour later, the corpses of the victims had been removed by the old stoat.

*6th June.*—A very backward season, lilac and horse-chestnut being in full flower on June 1, a date when they should have formed seed. [See May 29, 1879.]

The Club records with deep regret the death of Mr. CHARLES CORKRAN, a member.

15th October.—A claim by Mr. Vearncombe to the ownership of a narrow strip of land and half the bed of the town carrier, was tried at the County Court and judgment given for the Association.

A new spawning bed was made in the garden opposite the willow.

In November a large female otter was trapped in one of the first bends above Greenacre.

## 1886

5th March.—Large numbers of trout used the new spawning bed in the garden during the winter.

After more than 40 years' true and devoted service to the Club James Faithful retired on a well-earned pension, and William Lunn was appointed keeper in his place. [James Faithful died 26th April 1888.]

14th July.—The village sweep has captured a curious eel, the body being creamy pink, the dorsal fin bright yellow, head and shoulders black, with bright yellow patches.

16th.—Mr. Whitfield succeeded Mr. Milton as landlord of the hotel.

The Club gave up the Broughton breeding water. It was first rented in 1877, since which 1807 trout (exclusive of those from the breeding place) have been taken from it and turned into the Club water.

## 1887

In early spring a trout just under 10 lb. was caught on a trimmer in Mr. Deverell's water at Bossington.

A very late spring.

3rd May.—Great rise of grannom.

9th.—A perfect glut of grannom.

8th June.—Mr. Alfred Denison, having arrived for the Mayfly, was floored by congestion of the lungs, and remained seriously ill till 12th July, when he was able to leave for London.



*5th September.*—Mr. ALFRED DENISON died. Born in 1816, the eighth son of Henry Denison of Ossington, Notts, he went out as a young man with his brother Henry to start sheep farming in New South Wales, returning to England in 1857. In that year his eldest brother the Right Hon. John Evelyn Denison was elected Speaker, and appointed Alfred his private secretary. Speaker Denison retired in 1872, being raised to the peerage as Viscount Ossington. Alfred Denison by this time had become one of the best known men in London, and devoted all his leisure to angling—trout-fishing in England—salmon-fishing in Scotland. Probably no man ever killed so many salmon with the rod in the United Kingdom, the total recorded in his fishing diary being 4001. He noted 13th October 1873 as "the best day in my life," when he killed on the famed cast of Makerston, on Tweed, sixteen salmon weighing 27, 25, 23, 22½, 22, 21½, 20, 20, 18, 18, 17, 16, 9, 9, 7, 6 lb., losing four fish hooked, and getting eleven other rises. Truly a busy day. The best day in his other favourite river, the Ness, was 7th August 1876, when he killed sixteen fish from 15 lb. to 7 lb. The year 1885 he considered "the good season," when he killed 120 fish weighing 972½ lb. in the Ness, and 180 fish weighing 2651 lb. in the Tweed.

After his illness at Stockbridge, he recovered sufficiently to be at his usual post on the Ness by 1st August. His last day on that river was 3rd September, when he caught six salmon. On the morning of Sunday the 4th he was taken ill and died within twenty-four hours, having exceeded by just twelve days the allotted span of threescore and ten years.

An otter was killed by Lunn at North Head.

#### 1888

*16th March.*—The Hotel has again changed hands. After an inglorious reign, Mr. Whitfield sold it to Mr. T. Cannon, and Mr. Russell becomes our new host. [Mr. Russell died, "to the great regret of the Club," on 3rd April 1890.]





J. BONHAM-CARTER, M.P.



A long, inclement winter, succeeded by one of the latest springs on record; everything is fully three weeks behind hand.

26th April.—Every member of the Club will hear with sincere regret of the death to-day of JAMES FAITHFUL. Born in 1816, he entered our service in January 1845, and, after being associated with us in our palmiest days for 42 years, he retired on 1st January 1887, on a well-earned pension, which he only lived 15 months to enjoy. He was an accurate observer of nature, had a marvellous eye for a rising fish, and a perfect knowledge of every detail of his craft. His name was his character.

[6th June occurs the first mention of trout taken with the artificial Mayfly. Of eight trout weighing 17 lb. 7 oz. killed by Lord Moreton, one is marked "artificial Mayfly," the rest apparently having been taken by "blowing."—Ed.]

23rd October.—Lunn killed an otter at North Head.

|                       |                      |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 104 trout . . . . .   | 247 lb. 12 oz.       |
| 29 grayling . . . . . | 69 " 9 "             |
|                       | <u>317 lb. 5 oz.</u> |

Average of both trout and grayling 2 lb. 6 oz., believed to be the highest average on record.

22 trout and 8 grayling 3 lb. and upwards. Largest trout  $3\frac{3}{4}$  lb., Col. Wigram. Largest grayling  $3\frac{1}{4}$  lb., Mr. Norman.

#### 1889

Another late spring.

1st May.—"Enormous" grannom rise.

3rd "—"Tremendous" ditto ditto.

|                       |                      |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 177 trout . . . . .   | 372 lb. 5 oz.        |
| 29 grayling . . . . . | 52 " 3 "             |
|                       | <u>424 lb. 8 oz.</u> |

Average trout 2 lb. 1 oz. Average grayling 1 lb. 12 oz.

140 THE HOUGHTON FISHING CLUB [1890-

24 trout over 3 lb., and 1 grayling. Largest trout  $4\frac{1}{2}$  lb., Lord Penrhyn. Largest grayling  $3\frac{1}{2}$  lb., Lord Penrhyn.

A large increase of Mayfly in the lower water.

24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> February.—6 tench =  $21\frac{1}{2}$  lb., netted in Peat Pits.

1890

28<sup>th</sup> April.—Mr. Martin Smith killed a grayling 3 lb. 10 oz., the largest recorded in the Club annals. He hooked it about midday at Broken Bridge; it broke his cast, after he had played it for 3 or 4 minutes. At 2.30 he hooked the same fish, landed it, and recovered his fly. The grayling was sent to the British Museum.

The grannom continued till 16<sup>th</sup> May, which Harris stated to be without precedent.

25<sup>th</sup> May.—Two black terns were on the Peat Pits.

Mayfly were more abundant this season than Lunn remembers ever to have seen.

|             |   |   |   |   |   |                      |
|-------------|---|---|---|---|---|----------------------|
| 148 trout   | . | . | . | . | . | 297 lb. 5 oz.        |
| 40 grayling | . | . | . | . | . | 77 „ 0 „             |
|             |   |   |   |   |   | <u>394 lb. 5 oz.</u> |

Trout averaged 2 lb.; grayling 1 lb. 14 oz.

Largest trout 6 lb. 10 oz., Lord Penrhyn (minnow). Largest grayling 3 lb. 10 oz., Mr. M. Smith.

18 trout and 4 grayling of 3 lb. and upward.

A new hut was erected at Broken Bridge.

The ditch at the top of Park Stream was cleaned and converted into a nursery.

The secretary presented the Club with a writing table and a new punt for the Peat Pits.

1891

A very severe snowstorm in March destroyed many young trout in both nurseries.

8<sup>th</sup> May.—Lord Moreton killed a trout 5 lb., the largest recorded to the artificial fly in the Club water, although on 2nd June 1825 Mr. Popham killed one of 5 lb. 1 oz. on the natural Mayfly.

# 1892] THE HOUGHTON FISHING CLUB 141

23rd July.—A cormorant on the Club water. Harris says he has not seen one there for 30 years.

6th November.—In consequence of the very high water, numbers of salmon have spawned all over the river, notably at Sheep Bridge, Park Bridge, North Head, &c. Lunn saw one which he estimates at 40 lb.

About 3 acres of meadow have been enclosed, and a further new nursery for trout constructed at the top of Park Stream. There are at present 4000 or 5000 eggs and 300 or 400 yearlings there.

|                       |                      |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 125 trout . . . . .   | 287½ lb. 0 oz.       |
| 21 grayling . . . . . | 39 „ 14 „            |
|                       | <u>327 lb. 6 oz.</u> |

Largest trout 6 lb., with rod 5 lb., Lord Moreton.

Average weight of trout 2 lb. 5 oz. Average weight of grayling 1 lb. 9 oz.

Included in above are 4 trout netted out of the carrier under the arch, 6½ lb., 5 lb. 7 oz., 4 lb. 7 oz., and 3 lb.

21 trout and 1 grayling 3 lb. and upward.

## 1892

3rd September.—Mr. Norman presented the Club with a really comfortable sofa.

24th December.—Lord Ducie has presented the Club with a Ross's field-glass for Lunn's use. Mr. Norman has given a fire-screen, ornamented with tiles painted from drawings in Mr. Penn's book on fishing.

|                       |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 147 trout . . . . .   | 341 lb. 11 oz.        |
| 21 grayling . . . . . | 37 „ 3 „              |
|                       | <u>378 lb. 14 oz.</u> |

Average of trout 2 lb. 5 oz. Average of grayling 1 lb. 12 oz.

Largest trout 4 lb., Col. Corkran. Largest grayling 3 lb., Mr. Nigel Smith; but a trout was netted in carrier 4¾ lb.

33 trout 3 lb. and upwards, and one grayling.

9th May.—A black tern hawking flies all day in Cooper's Mead.



1893

*1st January.*—This day will be for ever memorable in the Club Annals. A lasting debt of gratitude is due to those members of the Houghton Club who, at a very critical moment, provided the greater part of the capital necessary for the purchase of our long-lost water. This day we re-enter on the choicest part of the best trout river in England, with the satisfaction of knowing that we are no longer lease-holders.

Our work, however, is not yet finished. Further purchases (small in comparison to this) must be made to make our position secure.

In taking the fishery over we find the banks in a shameful state of neglect, and the stock of fish very much smaller than when we gave up possession. All this is being carefully remedied.

*6th February.*—James Harris has been pensioned on full wages, having served us well and faithfully for 49 years, dating from 1844. He is now 73 years old, and although reasonably active for his age, the extra work arising from the eel-weirs made his retirement expedient. G. Goddard, of King's Somborne, was appointed keeper in Harris's place for a year on approval.

*17th.*—700 two-year-old trout arrived from Norwich, of which 500 were the gift of Lord Penrhyn and Mr. Martin Smith. They were put into the nursery at Stockbridge. Our old tent was bought in 1861 for £30, 4s. Such care has Harris taken of it that £11, 3s. 2d. has sufficed to put it in perfect repair, and it is pronounced almost as good as new.

*19th September.*—Machine Ditch has been cleaned out. When this was done some twenty years ago, it had the effect of bringing up the Mayfly in thousands the following year.

*30th.*—About 250 fine trout from the Stockbridge Nursery and 350 from the North Head Nursery were turned into the river.

*21st October.*—The Stockbridge Nursery yielded 250 more trout, which were turned into the river.

*December.*—Lunn shot a spotted crane on Corporation farm.

|             |           |                      |
|-------------|-----------|----------------------|
| 183 trout   | . . . . . | 375 lb. 1 oz.        |
| 38 grayling | . . . . . | 64 " 9 "             |
|             |           | <hr/> 439 lb. 10 oz. |

Average trout 2 lb. Average grayling 1 lb. 10 oz.

1894] THE HOUGHTON FISHING CLUB 143

Largest trout 3 lb. 10 oz., Lord Penrhyn. Largest grayling 3 lb. 3 oz., Col. Corkran.

25 trout, 2 grayling, 3 lb. and over.

Picket Weir and the Hatches at Fleet Carrier were put in new this autumn, the Club contributing £6, 15s. towards the cost of the weir, which it was important for the fishery not to allow to "blow away." This was done by way of gift, on a special receipt, and not admitting any claim from the Attwood estate to pay this sum. The expense of the new hatches at Fleet was shared equally between the Club and Mr. Cannon of Danebury. The Club also made and paid for extensive repairs lower down the carrier for the irrigation of Blandford's meadows. About 100 fish, some of them up to 3 and 4 lb. each, were taken out of the carrier and turned into the Grosvenor water.

Several gallons of grannom spawn were taken from the upper water and turned in near the upper plank bridge at Park Stream. This experiment was very successful last year.

A large quantity of Mayfly was brought from Dunbridge near Mottisfont, and Lunn hatched a further quantity of eggs in glass jars. They were all laid down in the mouth of the ditch on the north side of the river between Fleet Weir and the old poplar on the opposite bank.

1894

A very early spring. Fruit trees in full blossom on 13th April; lilac nearly in bloom. The grannom season—April 7th to 29th—was very bad. The fly came up early, but, although there have been one or two heavy rises, the fish have not taken well.

23rd May.—A large trout was found dead just above King's Mead Weir, his head sticking in the mud and his tail above water. He weighed nearly 7 lb., was in good condition, and had no marks of violence upon him.

25th May.—The big fish underwent a *post-mortem* this morning. The cause of his death was evidently a lot of wing-feathers of a chicken lying undigested in the stomach. He had also a large lump of fat, apparently taken out of some "grease-trap" and thrown into the river, and a lump of boiled potato. He had also some chicken bones semi-digested, the whole lining of the stomach being inflamed. His length was  $25\frac{3}{8}$  inches.

28th May.—Conversation overheard.

Lord Penrhyn (to Waiter): "What has Mr. Norman caught?"

Waiter: "The 4.5, my lord." Lord Penrhyn: "What! four or five?"

Waiter: "No, my lord; the 4.5 train."

29th May.—Lord Penrhyn killed, with minnow in King's Mead Weir, a trout 5 lb. 14 oz., 23½ inches long.

7th June.—General Wigram took with bread in the Fleet Carrier a trout 7 lb., length 24½ inches, girth 15½ inches.

31st August.—A trout 7½ lb. was taken out of the Fleet Carrier, a male fish, very short and thick, almost the exact counterpart of General Wigram's: 25 inches long, 15 inches in girth.

A curious eel, spotted all over with yellow, was taken and sent to Dr. Günther of the British Museum, who pronounced it to be a semi-albino; adding—"perfect albinos, of which I have seen numerous specimens, are uniformly lemon- or orange-yellow."

November.—The river has been in flood for many weeks, and there were numbers of salmon all over the water. One was seen by Gulliver just below Mudie's Trunk, and another was reported as far up as Chilton. The pike must have got out of the Peat Pits into Gough's River, and it is much to be feared that Harris has lost many trout out of his nursery, Flower's meadow being completely under water.

Great improvements have been made in the Club water. A large spawning bed has been made at the bottom of Black Lake; another on Machine Shallow, and a third half-way up Cooper's meadow. The discovery of a bed of gravel at Warnjoles is most opportune, and the two latter beds can be increased in future years at a very small cost. The banks have been thoroughly made up, and many extra bridges put down. Very little else remains to be done. A fourth nursery has been constructed in the ditch at the top of Cooper's meadow; it is the largest and best of them all, with a splendid fall of water.

28th December.—Mr. Norman has presented the Club with 500 2 years old trout and 1000 yearlings—the latter of the famed Wycombe breed.

In the 18 months ending Dec. 31, 1894, Goddard reports having killed 460 jack. In the first five months of the year Lunn killed at least 119. In the usual netting in the spring 106 were caught, 85 of which were turned into the Peat Pits, where the jack seem to have been decreasing in size and numbers for many years past.

## 1895] THE HOUGHTON FISHING CLUB 145

Lunn during the first year he was with us caught in the Park Stream and the half of the Black Lake 470 jack. We had not then bought the manorial rights.

The season has been remarkable for the number of large fish killed, three of them being of a size quite unprecedented. Another (if not two more) of a similar size has been seen.

| Captor.              | Locality.        | Bait.  | Weight.     |
|----------------------|------------------|--------|-------------|
| General Wigram . . . | Fleet Carrier    | Bread  | 7 lb.       |
| Taken with net. . .  | Fleet Carrier    | ...    | 7 lb. 8 oz. |
| Found dead . . .     | King's Mead Weir | ...    | 6 " 12 "    |
| Lord Penrhyn . . .   | King's Mead Weir | Minnow | 5 " 12 "    |
| Mr. Norman . . .     | King's Mead Weir | Minnow | 4 " 12 "    |
| Mr. Balfour . . .    | Cooper's Mead    | Fly    | 4 " 6 "     |
| Mr. Pryor . . .      | Cooper's Mead    | Fly    | 4 " 5 "     |

Twenty-seven other fish of 3 lb. and upwards were taken also.

A turbine has been put in at the Longstock Mill in place of the old water-wheel, and this may have driven the seven-pounders from their old haunts. The fish in Fleet Carrier can only enter from above.

There were caught in the Club waters in the year 1894—

|                    |                       |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 210 trout weighing | 444 lb. 10 oz.        |
| 66 grayling "      | 128 " 0 "             |
|                    | <u>672 lb. 10 oz.</u> |

Average weight of trout just under 2 lb. 2 oz.

" " grayling 1 lb. 15 oz.

## 1895

19th January.—Mr. Norman caught in the Old Hole three jack, 16½, 11¼, and 8 lb. Shortly afterwards a very severe frost set in, which lasted for five or six weeks. The cold was greater than anything experienced before in this century.

1st March.—Three hundred two years old trout came from Norwich and were turned into the Stockbridge nursery.

8th March.—Mr. Norman came down to witness the arrival of 1000



yearlings from Uxbridge. They are of the far-famed Wycombe breed, and were all turned into the nursery at Cooper's Meadow. This breed are very late spawners, and the fish were much smaller than the ordinary yearlings.

*9th March.*—Mr. Norman caught a pike of  $17\frac{1}{2}$  lb. in the hole just above Park Bridge. The river has been thoroughly netted. There were caught in all 79 jack; two of 12 or 14 lb. each, 3 or 4 of 5 or 6 lb., and the remainder quite small. The large fish had probably escaped from the Peat Pits during the floods of the previous year. Seventy of these jack were turned into the Peat Pits. One salmon, which ought to have weighed 10 or 12 lb., was caught on the Houghton shallows.

*29th May.*—Three fish taken with Mayfly—the first of the season.

*19th October.*—The trout were moved to-day from the Ashams nursery—a splendid lot of fish averaging quite 1 lb. weight, and some 20 or 30 up to 2 lb. One hundred of the largest were turned in at the top of Black Lake; 40 into Machine Shallow, and 40 into the Old River. The remainder, some 20 or 30 fish, were left in the nursery to work down into Asham's river. The quantity of mud in the nursery made the capture of the fish very difficult.

*15th to 30th October.*—General Wigram killed 8 grayling weighing  $13\frac{1}{2}$  lb. in the Club Water and 13 salmon at Romsey weighing 141 lb.

No trouble or expense has been spared in putting the river into perfect order. The heavy work is almost finished, and all will be done in time for the next fishing season. The state of the banks and the number of bridges are all that can be desired, and as every yard of water is now available, the extent of fishing is as great as it ever has been before, if not greater. The stock of trout also is greater than at any previous time in the history of the Club, and can be further increased in the future. The number of jack in the river is at a minimum, and works have been done at the Peat Pits rendering escape from them quite impossible for the future, whatever may have taken place in the past.

We have now four nurseries, and are in a position to turn in annually with ease 1000 fish of an average weight of 1 lb., at an annual cost of £40 to £50. Experience tells us that the best and cheapest way is to buy yearlings, and to change the blood as much as possible by buying these from different quarters.

Mr. Norman has had the whole of the banks above and below Attwood's Weir made up, and a large spawning bed constructed just below



# 1896] THE HOUGHTON FISHING CLUB 147

the weir. It was a very heavy job; tons of mud were removed; but the experiment should open up a very good bit of fishing. The ditch bounding Gulliver's garden on the N.W. side has been cleaned out, and some very good spawning gravel uncovered.

A large number of salmon came up to spawn. It is reported that the hatches at Romsey are opened on 1st November for the express purpose of allowing their passage. They do a great deal of harm to our spawning beds.

During the year, Goddard caught 273 jack, Lunn 232, and Gulliver 40. Four or five were up to 5 or 6 lb., the large majority being quite small. In the Peat Pits Mr. Norman caught at various times eleven jack weighing 121 lb.

One trout of 5 lb. 1 oz. was taken in the Fleet Carrier, and 26 trout of 3 lb. and upwards in the Club Waters. There were caught in the Club waters in the year 1895—

|                    |   |   |   |                       |
|--------------------|---|---|---|-----------------------|
| 241 trout weighing | . | . | . | 514 lb. 13 oz.        |
| 54 grayling "      | . | . | . | 109 " 1 "             |
|                    |   |   |   | <u>623 lb. 14 oz.</u> |

Omitting fractions, the average weight of trout was 2 lb. 2 oz., and of grayling 2 lb.

## 1896

7th February.—Mr. Norman came down to superintend the arrival of a picked lot of 1100 yearlings from Uxbridge. Not a fish was lost. Half were turned in at the Stockbridge nursery and half at Ashams.

14th March.—A large trout was found dead in the Grosvenor water, which, had it been in condition, should have weighed 8 lb.

8th May.—Grannom has risen more or less all the week, making the period of its presence on the water over a month.

25th May.—Ten rods killed 40 trout (largest 4 lb. 6 oz., by Mr. Balfour) and 4 grayling, weighing 93 lb. 3 oz. Besides Mr. Balfour's fish there were three of more than 3 lb. each.

27th May.—Members dined in the tent for the first time this season. Very cold; wind N.N.E.

31st May.—At a special general meeting of the Club it was decided

# 148 THE HOUGHTON FISHING CLUB [1896

by 12 votes to 4 (one member not voting) that Sunday fishing should not be permitted.

10th June.—The Fleet Carrier was netted, and 40 trout (4 or 5 over 2 lb.) were taken up to Attwood's Weir.

16th July.—No rain since a shower on 30th June. The season is extraordinary. Harvest began 10 or 12 days ago.

1st September.—The change came to-day. There followed perpetual rain, and later, very strong gales, until 7th October.

9th October.—Mr. Norman superintended the removal of the trout from the Blandford's nursery. There were 800 in all, about 20 being 2 lb. each. Two hundred were turned in at Attwood's Weir; 100 at the top of Black Lake; 100 on our side of the Boot Island; 50 into the Old River; 50 into Asham's River; 80 into Greenacre and Fleet Weir; 120 into Cooper's Mead. It is reckoned that there are still 100 or more left in the nursery, which will all be turned by degrees into Cooper's Mead.

12th October.—Three new spawning beds have been made—a large one in Goff's Shallow in conjunction with Mr. Johnson of Marsh Court; another between Boot Island and our bank; and the third, by the kind permission of Major Marsham, in the bend of the river by Houghton Lodge.

21st October.—Lunn removed his fish to-day; 100 were put in the top of Black Lake; 50 at Houghton Lodge; and the rest (about 150) were left to find their way into Park Stream.

21st December.—Mr. Norman has presented the Club with 400 rainbow yearlings. They arrived to-day from Haslemere.

24th December.—Mr. Norman arrived and stayed till the 28th. He is probably the only member who has spent Christmas here. The trout are hard at it spawning, all over the river. Several fish have been seen on the beds round the town of 6 and 7 lb., and even more.

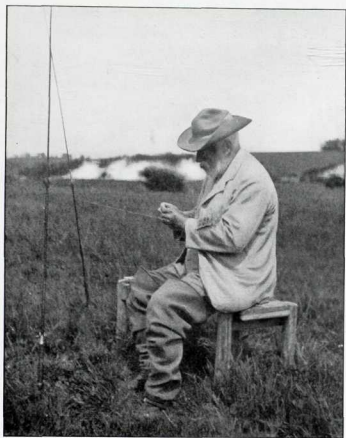
There were caught in the Club waters in the year 1896—

|                    |   |   |   |                       |
|--------------------|---|---|---|-----------------------|
| 260 trout weighing | . | . | . | 517 lb. 7 oz.         |
| 85 grayling „      | . | . | . | 159 „ 4 „             |
|                    |   |   |   | <u>776 lb. 11 oz.</u> |

Average weight of trout just under 2 lb.

„ „ grayling 1 lb. 14 oz.

33 fish of 3 lb. and upwards, whereof 9 were grayling.



MAJOR-GENERAL GODFREY WIGRAM, C.B.



1897] THE HOUGHTON FISHING CLUB 149

During 1896, Mr. Norman, Mr. Johnstone and friends caught at various times in the Peat Pits twelve jack weighing 133 lb. Largest fish 22 lb.

The keepers killed 494 jack.

Major Marsham, having received leave to fish in Butt's Larder, caught during the season 6 trout weighing 15 lb. 8 oz.

1897

*3rd March.*—Mr. Gilbey has kindly presented the Club with 1000 Wycombe yearlings. Half of them were turned into Blandford's and half into the Park Stream.

Five new bedrooms are being built over the market room, and the hotel is being done up—not before it was wanted.

An extra broad girder bridge is being put up in place of the old weir in the garden at the cost of the Association, and Mr. Cannon has agreed to put in a new bridge in place of the old cattle bridge just below.

Mr. Martin Smith has presented the Club with a set of stop nets to be placed at the mouths of the ditches when wiring for jack.

The enclosure on the south side of Park Stream was put up in the year 1896, and the fence on the north side, which had to be renewed, was set back a yard or two further from the river.

*27th March.*—Major Marsham has cut a way through his plantation close to the river, and we have agreed to put up a suitable stile for our mutual benefit at the cost of the Club.

*26th April.*—Goddard caught a trout of 7 lb. in the Fleet Carrier: length, 25 inches; girth, 15 inches; a very thick fish.

*8th May.*—Lilac and horse-chestnut just out.

*18th June.*—Mr. Martin Smith has had the clock and weathercock on the Town Hall put in perfect order.<sup>1</sup>

*23rd June.*—General Wigram killed a trout of 10 lb. in the lower garden; length, 29½ inches; girth 17 inches.<sup>2</sup> THE JUBILEE FISH!

*28th June.*—Stockbridge kept the Jubilee this day. Procession of Oddfellows and School children through the town, with hymn and "God Save the Queen" sung outside the Town Hall at noon. Fire-engine

<sup>1</sup> The weathercock was designed by Sir F. Chantrey.—ED.

<sup>2</sup> Mode of capture not mentioned.—ED.



# 150 THE HOUGHTON FISHING CLUB [1897

display at 3 P.M., tea and sports, round-about, decorations, and illuminations.

13th July.—Mr. A. N. Gilbey killed 3 brace of trout weighing 11 lb. 10 oz. and on 15th 3 brace of trout and a grayling weighing 11 lb. 13 oz.

1st October.—The fish were removed to-day from Stockbridge nursery. There were 344, besides some 20 or 30 which were left to find their way into the river. They were a fine lot, two of them weighing as much as 3 lb. Seventy were put in at Attwood's Weir, 53 into the Grosvenor water, 45 at the Broken Trunk, 58 into Cooper's Meadow, 64 at the tail of the mill, and 54 into the Boro' Lake.

11th October.—The fish were removed to-day from the Ashams nursery, a finer lot—if anything—than those from the Stockbridge nursery. Seventy-five were put into Black Lake, 50 into the Old River, 50 on Goff's Shallow, 50 at Machine Shallow, 25 at Park Bridge. The remainder will work their own way into Asham's river, 50 or 60 or more.

The season has not been a good one. There was a scarcity of fly of all sorts, and the evening fishing was bad. The grayling showed very little.

Two new spawning beds have been made half-way up Greenacre.

There were caught in the Club waters in the year 1897—

|                    |                     |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 328 trout weighing | 574 lb. 10 oz.      |
| 53 grayling "      | 96 " 13 "           |
|                    | <hr/> 671 lb. 7 oz. |

Average weight of trout just under 1 lb. 12 oz.

" " grayling " 1 " 10 "

A trout of 10 lb. and one of 4 lb. were killed, and 14 others of 3 lb. and upwards, as compared with 33 last year.

Major Marsham caught in Butt's Larder 9 trout weighing 16½ lb. and 8 grayling weighing 12 lb. 14 oz.

Mr. Norman caught 8 or 10 jack in the Peat Pits; largest, 19 lb. The keepers killed 556 jack during the year, only 3 or 4 being about 5-lb. weight.

The river was so low in the autumn that it was decided to take the fish out of the North Head nursery. Seventy-two of the largest were put

in at Park Bridge, and the rest were left to find their own way into the river—about 180.

The quantity of trout which spawned was quite remarkable, especially round the town and at the tail of the mill. Four or five very large ones were seen, and numbers of three-pounders.

Major Marsham is leaving Houghton Lodge.

## 1898

Mr. Gilbey and Mr. Norman have each presented the Club with 500 yearlings—Mr. Gilbey's being Wycombe fish, and Mr. Norman's from the Burghley Park Fishery, Stamford, making the fifth strain of trout in the river. These fish were turned into the Stockbridge nursery.

2nd June.—Dined in tent for the first time.

8th June.—Mr. Martin Smith, fishing Mr. Meinertzhagen's water at Mottisfont, killed 2 trout of 3 lb. each and a salmon of 9 lb. with artificial Mayfly.

10th June.—Took the fish out of the Fleet Ditch. There were two of 4 lb. each and over, 3 or 4 of 3 lb., and 7 or 8 of 2 lb. One of the four-pounders was a hump-backed, pot-bellied little chap—girth  $14\frac{1}{2}$  in., being almost equal to his length, which was 19 inches, shaped more like a bream than a trout. He disgorged a large "blue bag," and, subsequently sickening, had to be knocked on the head. The others were put into Cooper's Meadow.

11th July.—Mr. Martin Smith killed 3 brace of trout weighing 9 lb. 9 oz., and Mr. A. N. Gilbey 3 brace weighing 11 lb. 10 oz. A good evening rise, lasting until after dark.

15th July.—Major Carlisle, fishing as Mr. A. N. Gilbey's guest, killed a beautifully shaped fish at the evening rise just below Denison's hole, weighing  $4\frac{1}{4}$  lb.

24th September.—A very large trout has been known to haunt the dipping-place in Dr. Loveless's garden, and, after several previous failures, Mr. Norman induced him to take a piece of meat about midday. It is by far the biggest trout that has ever been caught in these waters. He came in very tamely, and did not show much sport. Weight,  $11\frac{3}{4}$  lb.; length,  $30\frac{1}{2}$  inches; girth,  $17\frac{3}{4}$  inches.

## 152 THE HOUGHTON FISHING CLUB [1898]

22nd October.—About 250 trout were taken out of Blandford's nursery to-day, a few of them weighing  $3\frac{1}{2}$  lb. Of these 100 were turned into the middle water; the rest being put into North Head nursery.

Mr. Dudley Scott is now tenant of Houghton Lodge.

There were caught in the Club waters in the year 1898—

|                    |       |                       |
|--------------------|-------|-----------------------|
| 477 trout weighing | . . . | 839 lb. 12 oz.        |
| 106 graylings „    | . . . | 194 „ 13 „            |
| <u>583</u>         |       | <u>1034 lb. 9 oz.</u> |

Average weight of trout 1 lb. 12 oz.

„ „ grayling 1 „ 12 „

A record trout of  $11\frac{3}{4}$  lb., 2 of  $4\frac{1}{4}$  lb. each, and 13 of 3 lb. and upwards were taken this season.

In point of numbers this is the biggest season on record, and compares very favourably with 1860, when only 3 fish of 3 lb. and upwards were taken. Yet the season was by no means a favourable one as regards fly and weather. The evening rise all along was decidedly bad. The river was very low all the time.

The Mayfly is beginning to reappear, especially round Ashams.

The whole water is now splendidly stocked, and it is proposed, at the expense of numbers, to keep the fish in the nurseries through the winter, and turn them out in the early spring of next year, when they will be fully three years old, and should find food more easily. It is clear that they lose weight considerably when turned out in the autumn.

The keepers killed during the year 830 jack, low water and bright sun being favourable for wiring.

Mr. Norman and Mr. Ramsden caught at various times in the Peat Pits 14 jack, besides a few small ones. No weight worth recording.

The older members of the Club will hear with regret of the death of WILLIAM FREMANTLE on 3rd December, at the age of 86.

[A letter appeared in the *Fishing Gazette*, April 1898, signed "John Croker, Lieut.-Col.," stating that the writer had killed in August 1898

1899] THE HOUGHTON FISHING CLUB 153

four grayling weighing 4 lb. 2 oz., 4 lb. 1 oz., 4 lb.  $\frac{3}{4}$  oz., and 4 lb., in Mr. Ingham Whitaker's water at Horsebridge; to which a sceptical member of the Houghton Club has appended this note:—"These are all fisherman's weights. There is no record of a 4 lb. grayling in our books." It is not improbable that the fish in question were chub.—ED.]

1899

On 8th February died JAMES HARRIS in his 79th year, having joined us as keeper when he was about 20 years old. We have lost not only a faithful and trustworthy servant, but, to some of us, an old and valued friend. He retired on full wages in 1892, and with his death the last link is broken which connects us with the bygone generation.<sup>1</sup> On several occasions he expressed a wish that Mr. Norman should become the possessor of an old bureau, which has just been placed in the Club Room. This is where it should be, and Mr. Norman requests its acceptance by the Club.

1st April.—The remainder of the fish were removed from Blandford's nursery, 153 in all, leaving 50 or more to follow, which will be put into Cooper's Meadow. The odd 53 were also put there, and 100 into Attwood's Weir and other places high above the town. There were several fish over 3 lb.

The rainbow trout are still spawning at Lunn's nursery, and the grayling began to spawn many weeks ago in the river.

25th April.—Mr. A. N. Gibbey caught 10 trout weighing 21 lb. 14 oz.

26th April.—Sir J. Gladstone caught and returned to the river two rainbow trout, 1 lb. 15 oz. and 1 lb. 3 oz.

4th May.—Mr. Norman arrived to dinner, bringing with him the

<sup>1</sup> By no means. I am alive!—DUCIE, 24th April 1899.



# 154 THE HOUGHTON FISHING CLUB [1899

enormous fish,  $11\frac{1}{2}$  lb., which he killed last year, has had set up, and now presents to the Club.

28th May.—Frost last night cut flowers recently bedded out.

2nd June.—Mr. H. G. H. Norman killed a trout 4 lb. 11 oz.

9th June.—Gilbey had a blank day—hurrah!!!

23rd June.—Mr. Norman killed a trout of 5 lb.

4th September.—Mr. Norman killed four trout—4 lb., 4 lb., 2 lb. 10 oz., and 1 lb. 14 oz.—at the evening rise.

This has been the record year. There were caught in the Club waters in 1899—

|                    |                        |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| 583 trout weighing | 1132 lb. 6 oz.         |
| 37 grayling "      | 73 " 5 "               |
| <u>620</u>         | <u>1205 lb. 11 oz.</u> |

Average weight a fraction under 2 lb.

One trout of 5 lb., three of 4 lb. and over, and ten over 3 lb.

The elements were not favourable. The river was very low all the year, and the evening rise was decidedly bad. Lunn thinks that the grayling have much diminished in numbers. It is more probable that they have not shown themselves.

A bitch otter and her young was in Park Stream during the autumn. One cub was trapped.

A large sum of money was spent on the importation of Mayfly larvæ from the Kennet and from near Dunbridge. Many gallons were procured, and were turned in chiefly in the ditch running north just below Fleet Weir.

George Gulliver was discharged at midsummer, and G. Goater was taken on as half keeper, half labourer.

The unusual number of three vacancies occurred, owing to the retirement of Lord Ducie and the Hon. E. S. Douglas Pennant, and the lamented death of the Marquess of Winchester.

We record with a deep sense of the loss sustained by the Club the resignation of Lord Ducie, who has been one of our number for exactly forty years. His observations on natural history have greatly enriched our journals, and we recall with gratitude his liberality at the critical period when the Club was enabled to regain possession of the Houghton water in 1893.

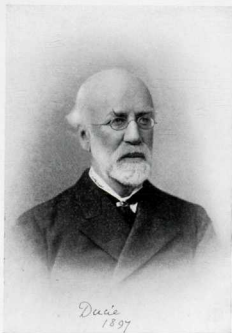




HERBERT G. H. NORMAN.



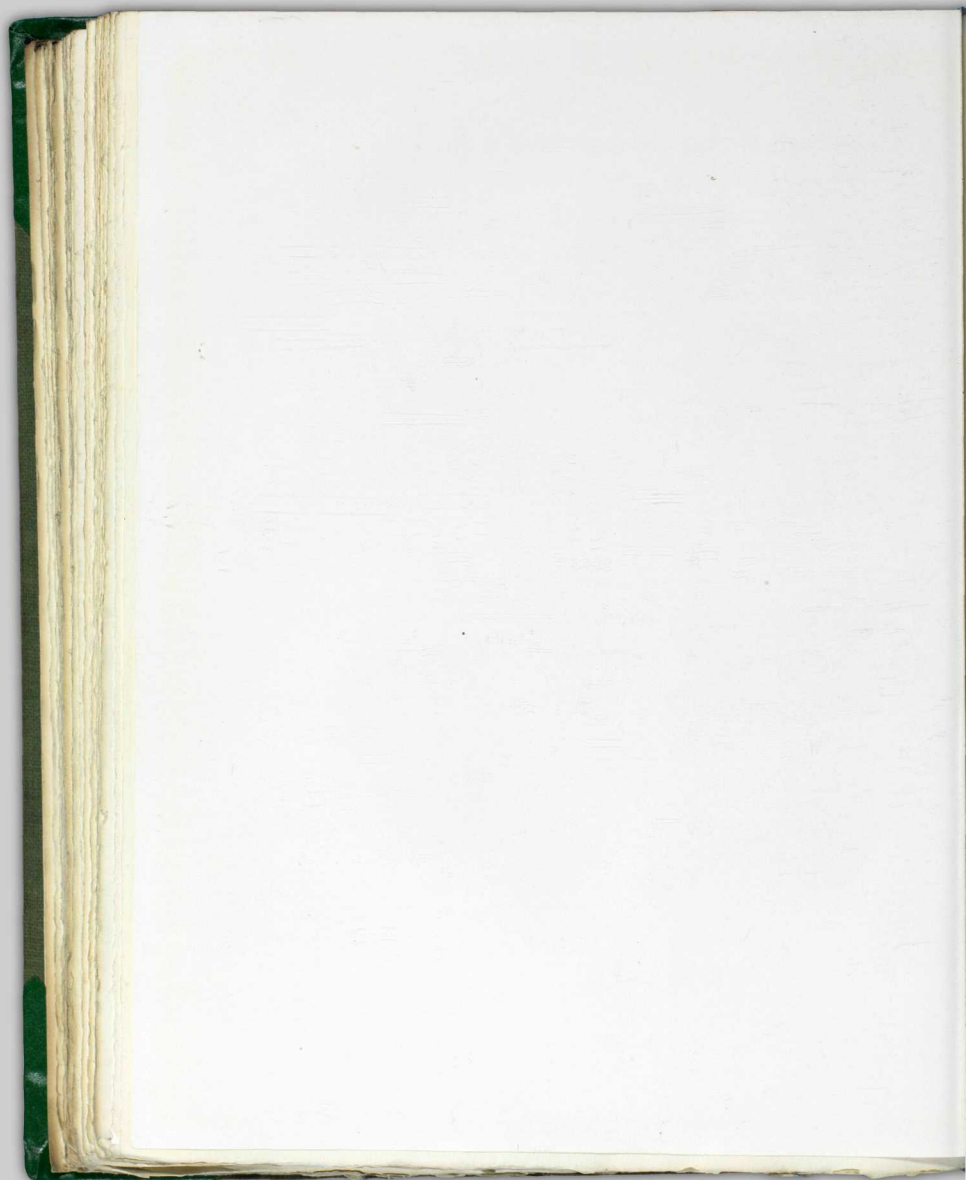
MARTIN TUCKER SMITH, M.P.



THE EARL OF DUCIE.



ALFRED DENISON.



THE MARQUESS OF WINCHESTER, who was killed at the battle of Magersfontein, was born in 1858, and succeeded his father as 15th Marquess in 1887. Entering the Coldstream Guards in 1879, he served on Sir John M'Neill's staff in the Soudan campaign, 1885. In the action at Tofreck Zariba his sword was broken in an encounter with four of the enemy. He had two shots in his revolver with which he bowled over a pair of them, drove his broken sword in the face of a third, killing him, and the fourth assailant bolted. At Magersfontein he met his death because he would not lie down with his men, but moved up and down behind them, directing the fire. He fell, at length, shot through the spine.

Mr. Norman has presented the Club with a series of water-colours painted by Mr. Frank Southgate, embracing some most beautiful views of the river. It is hoped that they will bring back pleasant recollections.

#### 1900

*22nd February.*—A thousand yearlings arrived to-day from Messrs. Andrews of Haslemere, and were turned into the Blandford's nursery. They were of very fine quality, and not a fish died.

*31st March.*—Mr. Norman came down to attend turning in trout from the Stockbridge and Asham's nurseries. Part of the fish were from Burghley fishery, part from Wycombe. There were a few splendid specimens, but, although they were three years old, the general quality was not so good as in previous years. Those supplied by Mr. Silk from Burghley were inferior and unhealthy; probably due to the very dry summers of '98 and '99, which were most likely the cause of a very large mortality. Fifty were turned in at Attwood's Weir; 51 at the top of the Bends; 21 on Machine Shallows; 20 in the Old River and 13 in Asham's River.

It was a very successful spawning season, but only one pair of rainbows was seen on the beds. It is rumoured that some rainbows have been caught at or near Romsey.

*5th April.*—Lunn moved his fish to-day from the North Head Nursery. He got 87, many more getting into holes in the banks. Sixteen more

# 156 THE HOUGHTON FISHING CLUB [1901-

were got subsequently; 15 put into Black Lake, 53 into Park Stream and 15 at Boat Island.

12th.—A dog otter weighing 23 lb. was caught below Moody's Trunk.

30th May.—Derby Day. Dined in the tent.

4th June.—Seven rods killed 32 trout and one grayling weighing 66½ lb. There were caught in the Club waters in the year 1900—

|                    |       |                       |
|--------------------|-------|-----------------------|
| 526 trout weighing | . . . | 1004 lb. 7 oz.        |
| 26 grayling "      | . . . | 49 " 12 "             |
| <u>552</u>         |       | <u>1054 lb. 3 oz.</u> |

Average weight of trout 1 lb. 14½ oz.

" " grayling 1 " 13 "

One fish of 6 lb. and 10 of 3 lb. and upwards were killed.

The evening rise being bad all the season probably accounts for the decrease in average weight of the fish.

The keepers killed during the year 664 jack.

On 8th September Fleet Carrier was netted; one hundred fish, some of them very large, were taken and put into Cooper's Meadow.

The experiment was tried of feeding the fish in Blandford's nursery on fish meal only. Goddard reported that this caused no change in their colour, but that they were not of the usual size, and horse-flesh was again resorted to in the autumn.

## 1901

1st January.—Mr. Norman presented the Club with a portrait of her Majesty, and has had "the Ducie" put into complete repair.

A thousand yearlings from the Hyde End Fishery on the Kennet were turned out, half into the Stockbridge nursery and half into Asham's.

30th May.—Dined in the tent.

13th June.—A rainbow 1½ lb. caught in Asham's River.

23rd June.—Baptism of four adults in the Dipping Place near the school, in the afternoon.

1st September.—The older members of the Club will hear with great regret of the death of Mr. E. Flower of Longstock, who has been for many years one of our best friends.

The death of Gulliver's brother has also to be recorded.

## 1902] THE HOUGHTON FISHING CLUB 157

The dear old willow tree in the upper garden has at last fallen into the river.

*7th October.*—The fish were taken out of Fleet Carrier—a sad falling off in numbers and quality, though there were some very fine ones. Only 36 in all, they were turned out below King's Mead Weir.

There were caught in the Club waters in the year 1901—

|                              |                      |
|------------------------------|----------------------|
| 356 trout weighing . . . . . | 724 lb. 1 oz.        |
| 18 grayling " . . . . .      | 33 " 1 "             |
| <u>374</u>                   | <u>757 lb. 2 oz.</u> |

Average weight of trout 2 lb.

" " grayling 1 lb. 13 oz.

Mr. Dudley Scott has left Houghton Lodge and has sent in no return. The new tenant, Mr. G. Vere Owen, is most friendly, agreeing to renew existing arrangements as to our passing along the banks between his house and the river.

The keepers caught during the year 64.8 jack.

The season was by no means good; the evening rise being bad throughout.

### 1902

Telegraph is being extended down to Houghton.

*23rd April.*—The Club has received the sad news of the somewhat sudden death of Mr. HERBERT G. H. NORMAN. He was for 31 years a member of the Club, of which he was the Secretary for an even longer period, always taking the greatest interest in its affairs. He was devoted to Stockbridge, where he will be sadly missed.

*1st May.*—At a meeting of the Club the following members were appointed as a Committee of Management:—General Wigram, Colonel Corkran, Mr. R. O. Smith and Mr. A. N. Gilbey (treasurer).

*2nd June.*—News of peace arrived. Many flags, much ringing of bells, shooting of guns, and fireworks.

*6th.*—Two otters seen in the evening at Boro' Marsh.

*14th.*—An otter seen in Grosvenor Water.

*19th.*—Five members had each a blank day. Wind strong S.E. to E. A few picket wing rose at 11 A.M.



158 THE HOUGHTON FISHING CLUB [1903-

11th June.—Mr. Gilbey killed a trout 4 lb.

26th June.—Mr. Ramsden saw an otter above Broken Bridge.

18th July.—Lord Moreton killed a trout 4 lb. 6 oz. on the sedge.

1st August.—Mr. Newman killed a trout 4½ lb. on the sedge in Grosvenor Water.

There were caught in the Club waters during 1902—

348 trout and 26 grayling weighing 767 lb. 13 oz.

Average weight of trout a little under 2 lb. 1 oz.

„ „ grayling a little over 2 lb. 1 oz.

Twenty-two fish of 3 lb. and over were taken, 3 of them of 4 lb. and over.

The fish from Blandford's, 140 in number, were turned into the river on 31st March. Owing to their falling off in condition, a quantity had been moved to Park Stream nursery, and the hatches at the bottom left open, through which probably some escaped. Only 50 odd were found in the nursery on 2nd April and turned into the river. This out of 1000 originally put into Blandford's!

About 600 from the nursery above Stockbridge and that at the Stone Weir have been turned into the river, from Attwood's Weir to Park Stream. This was done in the autumn.

The weather during the grannom season was very boisterous; the fly was late in coming up, and not too plentiful.

Mayfly rose well in the lower water on one or two occasions, but the fish took little notice of it. On the whole, the Mayfly season was bad. The evening rise was moderate.

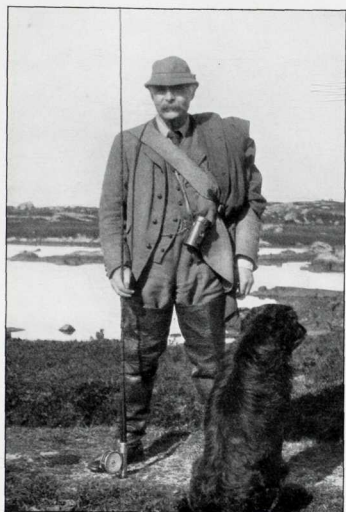
Arrangements have been made with Mr. Johnson of Marsh Court to limit the flow of water at the Blow Hole at the top of the Warnjoles, at the joint expense of the Club and Mr. Johnson. North Houghton farm (Mr. Trash's) has been bought by Mr. Johnson.

Mr. Pain has been appointed agent to the Club, to undertake a general supervision of the fishery, pay keepers' wages, &c.

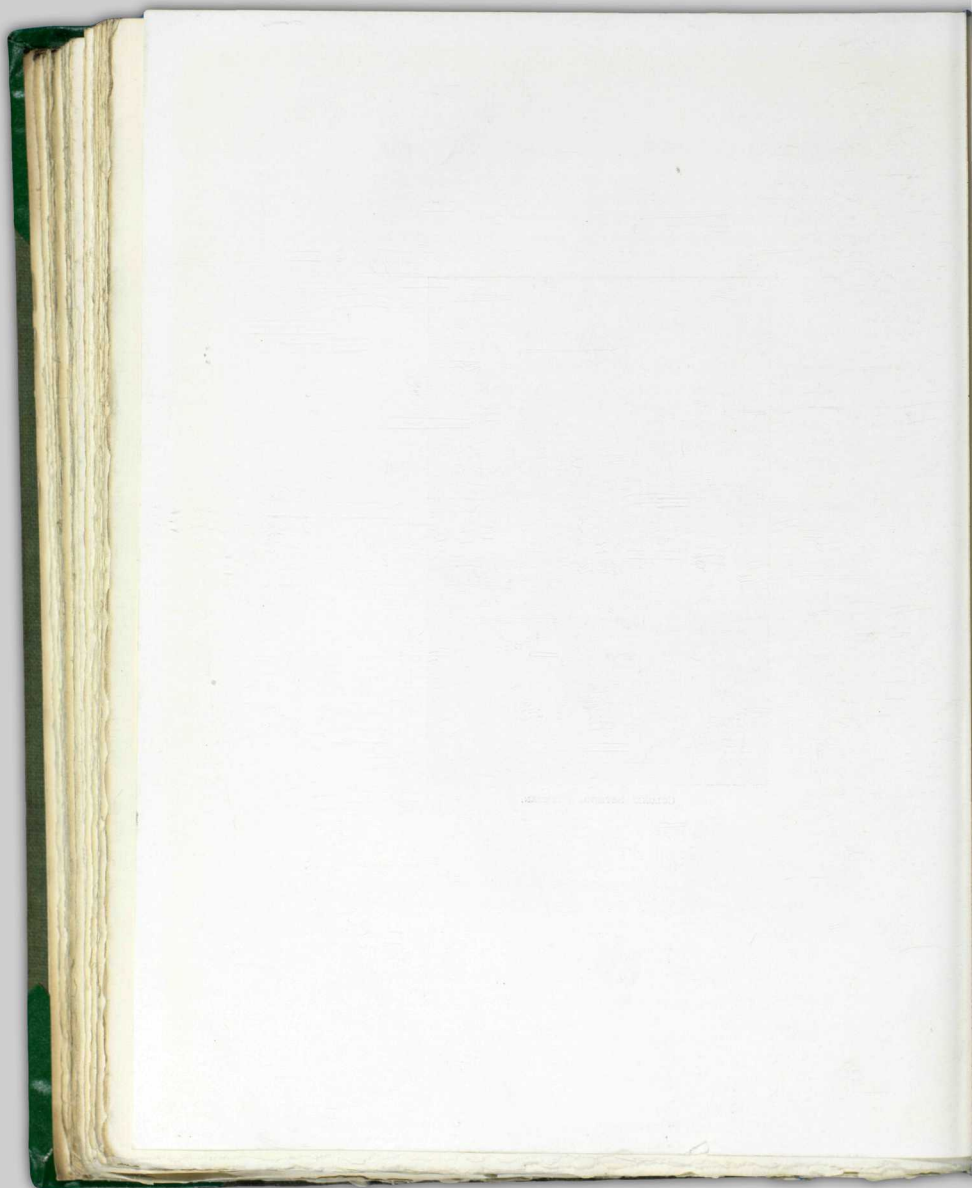
The keepers killed during the year 680 pike. Mr. Ramsden fished the Peat Pits on 14th February and killed 14 pike weighing 117 lb., largest 14 lb.

1903

9th April.—Everything very forward except the fish, which are backward in condition. The willows are green and the horse chestnuts show both leaves and flower-stalks; but bitterly cold to-day, with snow.



COLONEL SEYMOUR CORRAN.



1904] THE HOUGHTON FISHING CLUB 159

*7th May.*—Twenty-eight trout taken out of Fleet Carrier and put into the river below Kingsmead Weir. Some were very good fish, one weighing about 6 lb.

*3rd July.*—Mr. Newman, seeing a commotion in the weeds at the island above North Head, waded across and found a trout of 1 lb. 13 oz. lying belly upwards. Taking it out with his landing net, he found that a jack of 2 lb. was firmly attached to the shoulders of the trout. Both were killed.

There were caught in the Club waters during 1903—

247 trout and 12 grayling.

Average weight of trout 1 lb. 15 oz.

„ „ grayling 2 lb. 1 oz.

Ten fish of 3 lb. and upwards were caught, the heaviest being 3 lb. 12 oz.

The season of 1903 is the worst recorded since 1893. The abnormal rainfall during the year caused the river to rise to a height unknown to the oldest inhabitant, and it remained in flood the whole season.

There was a great number of small fish in the river, and these took well, but there was a remarkable absence of large fish.

The rise both of grannom and Mayfly was very bad, only a few rising on occasions, and the fish taking little notice of them.

No fish were turned into the river during the year, all available stock having been turned in during the autumn of 1902.

One thousand yearlings and 1000 two-years-old fish were obtained from Colonel Custance; the former being divided between the nurseries at Flower's Meadow and Asham's, and the latter put into Blandford's, 100 being afterwards moved to the Machine Ditch.

The keepers killed during the year 536 pike.

The retirement this year of Colonel Seymour Corkran is a matter of profound regret to all members of the Club—regret, however, which will not be shared by the scaly inhabitants of the parish, from whom the gallant Colonel has been wont to exact heavy annual tribute during the past twenty-three years.

1904

*3rd May.*—Fleet Carrier emptied. One fish of 5 lb. 13 oz. killed, and 18 fair fish removed to river.

*1st June.*—Rainy and cold. As it was the most disagreeable day of the season, dinner was taken in the tent.

# 160 THE HOUGHTON FISHING CLUB [1904

7th June.—Mr. Page killed a trout of 6 lb. 9 oz. in the garden with a sedge. This is the largest fish recorded in the Club Books as caught with artificial fly.

6th June.—Mr. R. Smith killed a trout of 4 lb. 2 oz. in the garden with a sedge.

There were caught in the Club waters during 1904—

|                              |                      |
|------------------------------|----------------------|
| 235 trout weighing . . . . . | 472 lb. 8 oz.        |
| 4 grayling „ . . . . .       | 8 „ 6 „              |
|                              | <hr/> 480 lb. 14 oz. |

Average weight of trout just over 2 lb.

„ „ grayling „ 2 lb. 1½ oz.

There were 10 fish of 3 lb. and upwards.

The keepers killed during the year 635 pike.

The season of 1904 is the record for the smallest number of fish caught since 1894. There was plenty of water all through the year, but a scarcity of fly: in fact the grannom was a complete failure, and the Mayfly was very thin indeed, except in the lower part of the Park Stream. The scarcity of Mayfly was particularly noticeable in Black Lake. There were only fair rises of picket wing, and very few sedge, while the caperer was not so much in evidence as in former years. Fish rose very badly all through the season, and there is no doubt the water was short of fish. The remainder of the two-years-old bought from Col. Custance in 1903 were turned in, but it is doubtful whether 200 of them were sizable fish. The floods of 1903 and early spring of 1904 brought down a great deal of mud, and deposited it in various parts of the channel. Some of this has been removed, but a great deal remains to be dealt with.

One thousand yearlings from Test spawn were purchased from Wherwell Priory, and 750 yearlings of Itchen-bred fish were received from St. Cross, Winchester, in return for ova taken from fish in the Club water.

As it is evident that the present nurseries cannot produce enough large fish for stocking the river, the Club has hired part of the field behind the Brewery, and made additional nurseries, in order to be able to turn out 1500 large fish each year.

The Club has to deplore the retirement of Mr. Martin Ridley Smith, after a membership of thirty-seven years. But although we thus part with a cherished comrade, we continue to profit by his benefactions, for he was one of those who contributed most liberally when funds were required for the purchase of the Houghton water in 1893.



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1905

23rd May.—Five degrees of frost outside bow-window.

30th May.—Dined in the tent for the first time.

22nd June.—Mr. Young killed a trout of 4 lb.

23rd November.—Mr. Page and Mr. A. N. Gilbey killed 13 grayling weighing 22 lb. 15 oz. Warm, calm day, overcast.

There were taken in the Club waters during 1905—

|                    |       |                     |
|--------------------|-------|---------------------|
| 366 trout weighing | . . . | 702 lb. 14 oz.      |
| 41 grayling „      | . . . | 79 „ 11 „           |
|                    |       | <hr/> 782 lb. 9 oz. |

Average weight of trout 1 lb. 14 $\frac{2}{3}$  oz.

„ „ grayling 1 lb. 15 oz.

There were 11 fish of 3 lb. and upwards: largest 4 lb.

The keepers have killed during the year 650 pike: largest 14 lb.

In spite of the grannom and Mayfly being almost failures, more fish were killed this year than in any of the last four seasons.

About 400 fish of 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  lb. and over were turned in during March and the first week of April, distributed over the whole water.

The rises of picket wing were certainly better than the two previous years, and the weather on the whole was more favourable. Very few fish were caught on the Mayfly; in fact Mayflies were more scarce this season than in any other within the experience of present members of the Club. The caper was well in evidence, but fish did not take them so eagerly as usual. There were fair rises of sedge in places; but on the whole this fly seems to have suffered from the quantity of mud deposited by the floods of 1903. A good deal of this mud has been taken out, but it will be a year or two before the worst of it can be tackled.

There are at present in the nurseries 1750 two-years-old fish, 1500 three-years-old and about 300 or 400 four-years-old, being the remainder of the three-years-old which were not large enough to turn out last spring. One thousand yearlings have been ordered for the nurseries in March.

1906

1st March.—There were turned into the river 742 fish from Blandford's, Flower's, and the Brewery field nurseries. Some of these were four years old: none were less than 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  lb., and many were over 2 lb.; some of

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3 lb., and one over 4 lb. They were distributed over the whole of the Club waters.

2nd May.—Mr. Page killed 8 trout weighing  $15\frac{1}{4}$  lb., and Mr. A. N. Gilbey a like number weighing  $15\frac{1}{2}$  lb.

29th May.—Mr. A. N. Gilbey killed 12 trout weighing 25 lb. 1 oz., and on the 30th 13 trout weighing 28 lb. 9 oz.

2nd June.—Mr. Balfour killed 11 trout weighing  $22\frac{1}{2}$  lb.

3rd June.—Mr. Balfour and Mr. Combe had an enjoyable day in a motor car. Leaving at noon, they returned at 10.30 P.M. to dinner, having assisted the car up all the hills between Wimborne and Stockbridge—a distance of 80 miles. Mr. Combe expressed much disappointment at finding that no money will purchase this car.

5th.—Nine rods killed 40 trout and 4 grayling weighing 85 lb. 14 oz.

6th.—Mr. A. N. Gilbey killed 12 trout weighing 23 lb. 6 oz., and on the 7th he killed 9 weighing 19 lb. 13 oz.: largest  $4\frac{1}{2}$  lb.

2nd July.—An otter was seen about 4 P.M. at the bottom of Cooper's Mead.

12th.—Mr. A. N. Gilbey killed 12 trout weighing 23 lb. 15 oz.

28th.—Mr. Parker killed 10 trout weighing 19 lb. 2 oz.

In spite of another failure as regards both grannom and Mayfly, this has been the record year since the Club was established. There were killed—

|                    |   |   |   |                        |
|--------------------|---|---|---|------------------------|
| 829 trout weighing | . | . | . | 1622 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. |
| 34 grayling "      | . | . | . | 65 $\frac{1}{2}$ "     |
| <u>863</u>         |   |   |   | <u>1688 lb.</u>        |

Average weight of trout just under 2 lb.

" " grayling the same.

Fourteen fish of 3 lb. and upwards were taken; largest  $4\frac{1}{2}$  lb. The keepers killed 565 pike during the year. The early part of the season was bitterly cold, and very few fish were caught before May. The grannom were scarcely seen at all, and very few put their eggs down. The weather improved during the Mayfly time, but there was an almost complete absence of this insect. It is probably without precedent in the annals of the Club that not a single fish was killed on the Mayfly. The caperer was present in fair numbers, but the fish took them only fitfully.

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Upwards of 700 fish of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to 4 lb. were turned into the river at the beginning of April, and 500 fish of similar size at the end of June. As 279 fish were caught after 1st July, the new plan of turning in part of the fish after the Mayfly season must be considered successful. The weather during July and August was very favourable for evening fishing.

## 1907

There were killed in the Club waters during the season, which was extraordinarily cold and wet—

|                          |                 |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| 972 trout weighing . . . | 1982 lb. 5 oz.  |
| 38 grayling " . . .      | 73 " 7 "        |
| 1010                     | 2055 lb. 12 oz. |

Average weight of trout 2 lb.  $\frac{3}{8}$  oz.

" " grayling 1 lb. 15 oz.

Thirty-seven trout and one grayling of 3 lb. and upwards were taken, the heaviest trout weighing 4 lb. 5 oz., and the heaviest grayling 3 lb.

It is to the sincere regret of all the members of the Club that this book should be started by recording the death of its oldest member, LORD PENRRHYN.

He joined the Club in 1862, and was thus a member for the long period of forty-five years. The great interest he took in the Club's welfare is instanced by the liberal manner in which he came forward when the Club obtained back the lower water by purchasing the Houghton Manorial rights, and, also, the Park Stream Fishing rights at a later period.

He was present at the Annual Meeting in February, just three weeks before he died.

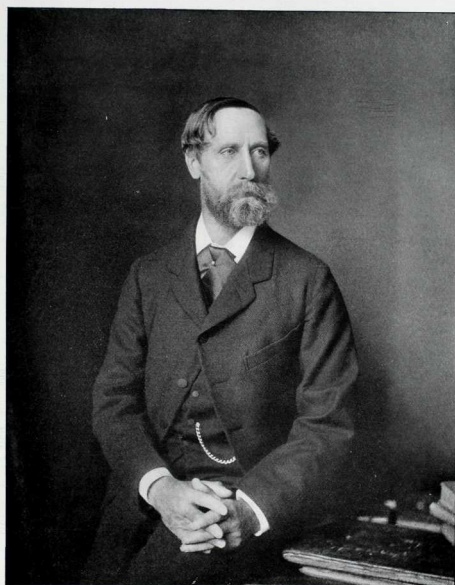
## 1908

It is with feelings of sadness that we record the resignation of General Godfrey Wigram, C.B., of whose prowess our journals afford ample evidence over a period of forty years save one. The Club has bestowed upon him the only distinction in their gift by electing him an honorary member.

# APPENDIX A

Table showing the Number of Trout and Grayling taken in each Season from the foundation of the Club, their Aggregate and Average Weight, the Number of Fish weighing 3 lb. and upwards, the Heaviest Fish of each Species, with the Name of the Captor.

| Year. | TROUT.  |                   |                 |                    |                                 | GRAYLING. |                   |                  |                    |                                |
|-------|---------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|-----------|-------------------|------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|
|       | Number. | Aggregate Weight. | Average Weight. | 3 lbs. and Upward. | Heaviest Fish.                  | Number.   | Aggregate Weight. | Average Weight.  | 3 lbs. and Upward. | Heaviest Fish.                 |
| 1823  | 111     | 154 lb.<br>14 oz. | 1 lb. 7 oz.     | 1                  | 3 lb.<br>Sir Charles Blois.     | 67        | About<br>90 lb.   | ...              | 0                  | 2 lb.<br>Mr. E. Barnard.       |
| 1824  | 85      | 131½ lb.          | 1 lb. 9 oz.     | 1                  | 3½ lb.<br>Mr. E. Barnard.       | 12        | 20 lb.<br>11 oz.  | 1 lb. 11 oz.     | 0                  | 2 lb. 6 oz.<br>Mr. W. Garrett. |
| 1825  | 202     | 348 lb.<br>1 oz.  | 1 lb. 11 oz.    | 3                  | 5 lb. 1 oz.<br>Mr. Popham.      | 118       | 187 lb.<br>5 oz.  | 1 lb. 9 oz.      | 3                  | 3½ lb.<br>Mr. H. Tasker.       |
| 1826  | 147     | 223 lb.<br>11 oz. | 1 lb. 8 oz.     | 0                  | 2 lb. 15 oz.<br>Mr. E. Barnard. | 133       | 224½ lb.          | 1 lb. 11 oz.     | 0                  | 2 lb. 15 oz.<br>Mr. Chantrey.  |
| 1827  | 215     | 351 lb.           | 1 lb. 10 oz.    | 0                  | 2 lb. 14 oz.<br>Mr. Daupier.    | 65        | 113 lb.<br>14 oz. | 1½ lb.           | 0                  | 2 lb. 15 oz.<br>Dr. Wollaston. |
| 1828  | 187     | 320 lb.           | 1 lb. 12 oz.    | 0                  | 2½ lb.<br>Mr. Warburton.        | 69        | 127 lb.<br>1 oz.  | 1½ lb.           | 0                  | 2 lb. 13 oz.<br>Mr. Warburton. |
| 1829  | 109     | 188 lb.<br>5 oz.  | 1 lb. 12 oz.    | 3                  | 3½ lb.<br>Mr. Penn.             | 101       | 147 lb.<br>1 oz.  | Nearly<br>1½ lb. | 0                  | 3½ lb.<br>Mr. Warburton.       |



THE LORD PENRHYN.





|      |     |                   |              |    |                             |     |                   |                       |   |  |
|------|-----|-------------------|--------------|----|-----------------------------|-----|-------------------|-----------------------|---|--|
| 1830 | 184 | 334 lb.<br>3 oz.  | 1 lb. 13 oz. | 21 | 4 lb.<br>Mr. E. Barnard.    | 179 | 255 lb.<br>1 oz.  | Nearly<br>1 lb. 7 oz. | 1 | 3 lb.<br>Mr. Penleaze.                                       |
| 1831 | 142 | 250½ lb.          | 1½ lb.       | 11 | 3½ lb.<br>Mr. Garrett.      | 185 | 264 lb.<br>2 oz.  | 1 lb. 7½ oz.          | 0 | 2½ lb.<br>Mr. Jarrett.                                       |
| 1832 | 276 | 486 lb.<br>3 oz.  | 1½ lb.       | 8  | 4 lb.<br>Mr. Chantrey.      | 187 | 286 lb.<br>2 oz.  | 1½ lb.                | 3 | 3 lb. 11 oz.<br>Mr. E. Barnard.                              |
| 1833 | 180 | 295 lb.<br>3 oz.  | 1 lb. 10 oz. | 8  | 4 lb.<br>Mr. Warburton.     | 125 | 212 lb.<br>1 oz.  | 1 lb. 11 oz.          | 2 | 3½ lb.<br>Mr. E. Barnard.                                    |
| 1834 | 198 | 338 lb.<br>15 oz. | 1½ lb.       | 7  | 3½ lb.<br>Mr. Warburton.    | 151 | 231 lb.<br>2 oz.  | 1½ lb.                | 1 | 3½ lb.<br>Col. Long.   |
| 1835 | 127 | 218 lb.<br>11 oz. | 1½ lb.       | 6  | 3½ lb.<br>Mr. Popham.       | 188 | 272½ lb.          | 1½ lb.                | 2 | 3½ lb.<br>Col. Long.   |
| 1836 | 245 | 427 lb.<br>10 oz. | 1½ lb.       | 10 | 4½ lb.<br>Mr. Penn.         | 76  | 145 lb.<br>3 oz.  | 1 lb. 14 oz.          | 1 | 3 lb.<br>Sir F. Chantrey.                                    |
| 1837 | 101 | 197 lb.<br>3 oz.  | 1 lb. 15 oz. | 3  | 3½ lb.<br>Mr. Popham.       | 45  | 85 lb. 3 oz.      | 1 lb. 14 oz.          | 4 | 3½ lb.<br>Lord Saloom.                                       |
| 1838 | 175 | 397½ lb.          | 1½ lb.       | 11 | 4 lb.<br>Lord Saloom.       | 96  | 152 lb.<br>14 oz. | 1 lb. 9 oz.           | 3 | 3 lb.<br>Mr. Penn, Mr.<br>Warburton, and<br>Sir F. Chantrey. |
| 1839 | 129 | 237½ lb.          | 1 lb. 13 oz. | 7  | 3 lb. 6 oz.<br>Mr. Beaton.  | 107 | 175½ lb.          | 1 lb. 10 oz.          | 3 | 3½ lb.<br>Mr. Popham.  |
| 1840 | 158 | 356½ lb.          | 2 lb. 1 oz.  | 17 | 4 lb. 2 oz.<br>Mr. Norman.  | 79  | 145 lb.<br>7 oz.  | 1 lb. 13 oz.          | 3 | 3 lb. 2 oz.<br>Mr. Jarrett.                                  |
| 1841 | 127 | 249½ lb.          | 1 lb. 15 oz. | 14 | 4½ lb.<br>Lord Saloom.      | 112 | 182½ lb.          | 1 lb. 10 oz.          | 3 | 3 lb. 2 oz.<br>Mr. Norman.                                   |
| 1842 | 191 | 377 lb.<br>14 oz. | 2 lb.        | 20 | 4 lb. 2 oz.<br>Mr. Sparrow. | 118 | 202 lb.<br>5 oz.  | 1 lb. 11 oz.          | 4 | 3 lb. 11 oz.<br>Mr. Barnard.                                 |

| Year. | TROUT.  |                       |                     |                   | GRAYLING. |                       |                     |                   |
|-------|---------|-----------------------|---------------------|-------------------|-----------|-----------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
|       | Number. | Aggregate Weight.     | Average Weight.     | 3 lb. and Upward. | Number.   | Aggregate Weight.     | Average Weight.     | 3 lb. and Upward. |
| 1843  | 263     | 544 lb.<br>14 oz.     | 2 lb. 1 oz.         | 26                | 109       | 190 lb.<br>11 oz.     | 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. | 2                 |
| 1844  | 163     | 321 lb.<br>7 oz.      | 2 lb.               | 11                | 113       | 196 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. | 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. | 6                 |
| 1845  | 92      | 199 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. | 2 lb. 1 oz.         | 8                 | 60        | 102 lb.<br>10 oz.     | 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. | 3                 |
| 1846  | 112     | 202 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. | 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. | 5                 | 72        | 125 lb.<br>6 oz.      | 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. | 4                 |
| 1847  | 209     | 367 lb.               | 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. | 3                 | 168       | 238 lb.<br>14 oz.     | 1 lb. 6 oz.         | 0                 |
| 1848  | 179     | 323 lb.<br>13 oz.     | 1 lb. 13 oz.        | 5                 | 198       | 339 lb.<br>14 oz.     | 1 lb. 11 oz.        | 3                 |
| 1849  | 173     | 344 lb.<br>3 oz.      | 2 lb.               | 9                 | 98        | 171 lb.<br>5 oz.      | 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. | 2                 |
| 1850  | 191     | 373 lb.<br>1 oz.      | 1 lb. 15 oz.        | 8                 | 113       | 234 lb.<br>15 oz.     | 2 lb. 1 oz.         | 4                 |
| 1851  | 275     | 473 lb.<br>6 oz.      | 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. | 8                 | 105       | 188 lb.<br>15 oz.     | 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. | 4                 |
| 1852  | 207     | 366 lb.<br>9 oz.      | 1 lb. 14 oz.        | 1                 | 114       | 208 lb.<br>14 oz.     | 1 lb. 13 oz.        | 3                 |
| 1853  | 204     | 415 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. | 2 lb.               | 12                | 38        | 67 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.  | 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. | 0                 |

# APPENDIX

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|      |     |                   |              |    |                                  |     |                  |              |   |   |
|------|-----|-------------------|--------------|----|----------------------------------|-----|------------------|--------------|---|---|
| 1854 | 248 | 475½ lb.          | 1 lb. 14 oz. | 13 | 4 lb.<br>Mr. Popham.             | 77  | 140 lb.<br>7 oz. | 1 lb. 13 oz. | 3 | ¾ lb.<br>Mr. M. Smith,<br>Barnard.              |
| 1855 | 186 | 336 lb.<br>13 oz. | 1 lb. 13 oz. | 5  | Mr. M. P. Smith.                 | 89  | 149 lb.<br>6 oz. | 1 lb. 10 oz. | 3 | ¾ lb. 2 oz.<br>Mr. H. Norman and<br>Mr. Beadon. |
| 1856 | 205 | 371 lb.<br>1 oz.  | 1½ lb.       | 5  | Mr. Martin Smith.                | 68  | 113½ lb.         | 1 lb. 10 oz. | 0 | 2½ lb.<br>Mr. Norman.                           |
| 1857 | 291 | 523 lb.<br>6 oz.  | 1½ lb.       | 2  | Mr. H. Norman.                   | 59  | 115 lb.<br>9 oz. | 1 lb. 14 oz. | 1 | ¾ lb.<br>Mr. H. Norman.                         |
| 1858 | 317 | 560 lb.<br>11 oz. | 1½ lb.       | 4  | Mr. Corkran.                     | 80  | 147 lb.          | 1 lb. 13 oz. | 0 | 2 lb. 14 oz.<br>Mr. M. Smith.                   |
| 1859 | 277 | 482 lb.<br>11 oz. | 1½ lb.       | 4  | 5½ lb. netted.                   | 75  | 137 lb.<br>9 oz. | 1 lb. 13 oz. | 1 | ¾ lb.<br>Colonel Williams.                      |
| 1860 | 502 | 959 lb.<br>7 oz.  | 1 lb. 14 oz. | 2  | ¾ lb. 2 oz.<br>Mr. M. Smith.     | 40  | 86 lb. 2 oz.     | 1 lb. 14 oz. | 1 | ¾ lb.<br>Mr. Bonham Carter.                     |
| 1861 | 118 | 259 lb.<br>6 oz.  | 2 lb. 3 oz.  | 12 | ¾ lb.<br>Lord Ducie.             | 43  | 74 lb.<br>15 oz. | 1½ lb.       | 2 | ¾ lb. 3 oz.<br>Sir H. James.                    |
| 1862 | 102 | 186 lb.<br>6 oz.  | 1 lb. 13 oz. | 7  | ¾ lb. 14 oz.<br>Hon. E. Russell. | 86  | 129 lb.<br>3 oz. | 1½ lb.       | 0 | 2½ lb.<br>Lord Aylesford.                       |
| 1863 | 151 | 307 lb.<br>10 oz. | 2 lb.        | 16 | ¾ lb.<br>Lord Uxbridge.          | 65  | 122½ lb.         | 1 lb. 14 oz. | 3 | ¾ lb. 2 oz.<br>Mr. M. T. Smith.                 |
| 1864 | 208 | 415 lb.<br>14 oz. | 2 lb.        | 16 | ¾ lb. 14 oz.<br>Mr. Corkran.     | 45  | 85 lb.           | 1 lb. 13 oz. | 2 | 2 lb.<br>Col. Hankey, Col.<br>Finch.            |
| 1865 | 238 | 465 lb.<br>7 oz.  | 1 lb. 15 oz. | 12 | ¾ lb. 10 oz.<br>Lord Aylesford.  | 118 | 182½ lb.         | 1½ lb.       | 3 | ¾ lb. 6 oz.<br>Mr. Martin Smith.                |

| Year. | TROUT.  |                       |                            |                               | GRAYLING. |                      |                     |                               |
|-------|---------|-----------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------|----------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|
|       | Number. | Aggregate Weight.     | Average Weight.            | $\frac{3}{4}$ lb. and Upward. | Number.   | Aggregate Weight.    | Average Weight.     | $\frac{3}{4}$ lb. and Upward. |
| 1866  | 248     | 482 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. | 1 lb. 15 oz.               | 8                             | 60        | 108 lb.<br>9 oz.     | 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ lb. | 2                             |
| 1867  | 232     | 463 lb.<br>1 oz.      | 2 lb.                      | 13                            | 44        | 76 lb. 2 oz.         | 1 lb. 11 oz.        | 0                             |
| 1868  | 242     | 513 lb.<br>14 oz.     | 2 lb. 1 oz.                | 19                            | 57        | 102 lb.<br>14 oz.    | 1 lb. 12 oz.        | 2                             |
| 1869  | 251     | 537 lb.<br>3 oz.      | 2 lb. 2 oz.                | 17                            | 31        | 63 lb. 9 oz.         | 2 lb.               | 1                             |
| 1870  | 136     | 321 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. | 2 lb. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.  | 28                            | 38        | 79 lb. 5 oz.         | 2 lb. 1 oz.         | 1                             |
| 1871  | 164     | 334 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. | 2 lb. $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.    | 27                            | 35        | 64 lb. 1 oz.         | 1 lb. 15 oz.        | 1                             |
| 1872  | 187     | 380 lb.<br>5 oz.      | 2 lb. 1 oz.                | 19                            | 62        | 102 lb.<br>7 oz.     | 1 lb. 10 oz.        | 1                             |
| 1873  | 135     | 277 lb.               | 2 lb. $\frac{3}{4}$ oz.    | 13                            | 34        | 59 lb. 5 oz.         | 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ lb. | 1                             |
| 1874  | 70      | 151 lb.               | 2 lb. 2 oz.                | 10                            | 9         | 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. | 1 lb. 9 oz.         | 0                             |
| 1875  | 62      | 115 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. | 1 lb. 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. | 3                             | 2         | 3 lb. 14 oz.         | 1 lb. 15 oz.        | 0                             |

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Harvest Fish.                          | Harvest Fish.                          |
| Lord Dyessford.                        | 4 lb. 2 oz.                            |
| 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. Mr. Corkran.       | 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. netted.            |
| Killed in weir.                        | 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.                    |
| Mr. Corkran.                           | 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.                    |
| Hon. G.D. Pennant.                     | 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.                    |
| 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. wined.             | 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. wined.             |
| 3 lb. 1 oz. Mr. M. Smith.              | 3 lb. 1 oz. Mr. M. Smith.              |
| Hon. G.D. Pennant.                     | 4 lb.                                  |
| 4 lb. 10 oz.                           | 4 lb.                                  |
| Lord Duclie.                           | 4 lb. 10 oz.                           |
| 5 lb. netted.                          | 5 lb. netted.                          |
| 3 lb. 10 oz.                           | 3 lb. 10 oz.                           |
| Col. Finch.                            | Col. Finch.                            |
| 3 lb.                                  | 3 lb.                                  |
| Col. Finch, Mr. Corkran, Mr. R. Smith. | Col. Finch, Mr. Corkran, Mr. R. Smith. |

|                  |                     |
|------------------|---------------------|
| Harvest Fish.    | Harvest Fish.       |
| Lord Dyessford.  | 3 lb. 2 oz.         |
| 2 lb. 14 oz.     | 2 lb. 14 oz.        |
| Mr. Norman.      | 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. |
| Capt. G. Smith.  | 3 lb. 2 oz.         |
| Capt. G. Smith.  | 3 lb.               |
| Lord Duclie.     | 3 lb.               |
| Mr. M. Smith.    | 3 lb.               |
| 3 lb. 2 oz.      | 3 lb. 2 oz.         |
| Lord Duclie.     | 3 lb.               |
| Mr. J. Wilgram.  | 3 lb.               |
| 2 lb. 10 oz.     | 2 lb. 10 oz.        |
| Mr. M. R. Smith. | 2 lb. 10 oz.        |
| 2 lb. 10 oz.     | 2 lb. 10 oz.        |
| Mr. B. Carter.   | 2 lb. 10 oz.        |



|      |     |                   |               |    |  |    |                  |              |   |                                 |
|------|-----|-------------------|---------------|----|--|----|------------------|--------------|---|---------------------------------|
| 1876 | 80  | 156 lb.<br>7 oz.  | 1 lb. 13½ oz. | 10 | 3½ lb.<br>Mr. Norman, Mr.<br>M. T. Smith.                    | 2  | 3½ lb.           | 1 lb. 11 oz. | 0 | 2½ lb.<br>Col. Fuch.            |
| 1877 | 99  | 189½ lb.          | 1 lb. 14½ oz. | 6  | 3½ lb.<br>Mr. Corkran, Mr.<br>H. Norman, Mr. M.<br>T. Smith. | 1  | 2 lb. 6 oz.      | ...          | 0 | 2 lb. 6 oz.<br>Mr. M. T. Smith. |
| 1878 | 163 | 307 lb.<br>15 oz. | 1 lb. 14 oz.  | 9  | 4 lb. netted.<br>3½ lb. Col. Wigram.                         | 5  | 14 lb. 2 oz.     | 2 lb. 13 oz. | 1 | 3 lb. 2 oz.<br>Col. Wigram.     |
| 1879 | 194 | 338 lb.<br>7 oz.  | 1 lb. 12 oz.  | 7  | 3 lb. 10 oz.<br>Lord Ducie.                                  | 14 | 23 lb. 7 oz.     | 1 lb. 10 oz. | 0 | 2 lb. 11 oz.<br>Mr. Cave.       |
| 1880 | 231 | 464 lb.<br>9 oz.  | 2 lb.         | 25 | 4 lb. (twice).<br>Mr. Corkran and Mr.<br>Douglas-Pennant.    | 17 | 32 lb.           | 1 lb. 15 oz. | 0 | 2½ lb.<br>Mr. Corkran.          |
| 1881 | 187 | 369 lb.<br>1 oz.  | 2 lb.         | 22 | 4 lb. 2 oz.<br>Mr. Corkran.<br>4½ lb. wired in ditch.        | 64 | 100 lb.<br>7 oz. | 1½ lb.       | 1 | 3 lb.<br>Mr. Denison.           |
| 1882 | 170 | 301 lb.<br>11 oz. | 1 lb. 12 oz.  | 10 | 5 lb. 9 oz.<br>Col. Corkran.                                 | 19 | 26 lb. 1 oz.     | 1 lb. 6 oz.  | 0 | 2 lb. 5 oz.<br>Mr. Denison.     |
| 1883 | 256 | 450 lb.<br>9 oz.  | 1 lb. 12 oz.  | 5  | 3 lb. 14 oz.<br>Mr. Martin Smith.                            | 42 | 72 lb. 9 oz.     | 1 lb. 11 oz. | 1 | 3 lb. 2 oz.<br>Col. Corkran.    |
| 1884 | 221 | 409 lb.<br>12 oz. | 1 lb. 15 oz.  | 14 | 3½ lb.<br>Lord Ducie.  | 41 | 84 lb.<br>12 oz. | 1 lb. 15 oz. | 1 | 2½ lb.<br>Mr. Martin Smith.     |
| 1885 | 198 | 392 lb.<br>7 oz.  | 2 lb.         | 19 | 4 lb. 9 oz.<br>Mr. Denison.                                  | 70 | 109 lb.<br>6 oz. | 1 lb. 9 oz.  | 2 | 3 lb. (twice).<br>Mr. Norman.   |
| 1886 | 198 | 406½ lb.          | 2 lb.         | 15 | 4 lb. 8 oz. netted.  | 32 | 64½ lb.          | 1 lb. 15 oz. | 2 | 3 lb. 2 oz.<br>Lord Ducie.      |
| 1887 | 190 | 277 lb.<br>10 oz. | 2 lb. 2 oz.   | 17 | 3½ lb.<br>Lord Penrhyn.                                      | 15 | 29 lb. 2 oz.     | 2 lb.        | 1 | 3 lb.<br>Mr. Norman.            |

| Year.             | TROUT.  |                   |                          |                 |   | GRAYLING. |                   |                          |                 |  |
|-------------------|---------|-------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|---|-----------|-------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|--|
|                   | Number. | Aggregate Weight. | Average Weight.          | lb. and Upward. | Heaviest Fish.                            | Number.   | Aggregate Weight. | Average Weight.          | lb. and Upward. | Heaviest Fish.                                 |
| 1888              | 104     | 247 lb.<br>12 oz. | 2 lb. 6 oz. <sup>1</sup> | 22              | 3 lb.<br>Col. Wigram.                     | 29        | 69 lb. 9 oz.      | 2 lb. 6 oz. <sup>1</sup> | 8               | 3 lb.<br>Mr. Norman.                           |
| 1889              | 177     | 372 lb.<br>5 oz.  | 2 lb. 1 oz.              | 24              | 4 lb.<br>Lord Penrhyn.                    | 29        | 52 lb. 3 oz.      | 1 lb. 12 oz.             | 1               | 3 lb.<br>Lord Penrhyn.                         |
| 1890              | 148     | 297 lb.<br>5 oz.  | 2 lb.                    | 18              | 6 lb. 10 oz.<br>Lord Penrhyn.             | 40        | 77 lb.            | 1 lb. 14 oz.             | 4               | 3 lb. 10 oz. <sup>2</sup><br>Mr. M. Smith.     |
| 1891              | 125     | 287 lb.           | 2 lb. 5 oz.              | 21              | 6 lb. netted.<br>5 lb. Lord Moreton.      | 21        | 39 lb.<br>14 oz.  | 1 lb. 9 oz.              | 1               | 3 lb.<br>Mr. H. Norman.                        |
| 1892              | 147     | 341 lb.<br>11 oz. | 2 lb. 5 oz.              | 33              | 4 lb. Col. Corkran.<br>4 lb. netted.      | 21        | 37 lb. 5 oz.      | 1 lb. 12 oz.             | 1               | 2 lb.<br>Mr. Nigel Smith.                      |
| 1893              | 183     | 375 lb.<br>1 oz.  | 2 lb.                    | 25              | 3 lb. 10 oz.<br>Lord Penrhyn.             | 38        | 64 lb. 9 oz.      | 1 lb. 10 oz.             | 2               | 3 lb. 3 oz.<br>Col. Corkran.                   |
| 1894              | 210     | 444 lb.<br>10 oz. | 2 lb. 2 oz.              | 32              | 7 lb. 8 oz. netted.<br>7 lb. Col. Wigram. | 66        | 128 lb.           | 1 lb. 15 oz.             | 2               | 3 lb. 2 oz.<br>Lord Moreton and<br>Mr. Norman. |
| 1895              | 241     | 514 lb.<br>13 oz. | 2 lb. 2 oz.              | 23              | 5 lb. 1 oz.<br>Gen. Wigram.               | 54        | 109 lb.           | 2 lb.                    | 1               | 3 lb.<br>Mr. Norman.                           |
| 1896              | 260     | 517 lb.<br>7 oz.  | 2 lb.                    | 24              | 4 lb. 6 oz.<br>Mr. Balfour.               | 85        | 159 lb.           | 1 lb. 14 oz.             | 9               | 3 lb.<br>Sir John Gladstone.                   |
| 1897 <sup>2</sup> | 328     | 574 lb.<br>10 oz. | 1 lb. 11 oz.             | 16              | 10 lb.<br>General Wigram.                 | 53        | 96 lb.            | 1 lb. 10 oz.             | 1               | 3 lb. 1 oz.<br>Sir John Gladstone.             |
| 1898              | 477     | 899 lb.           | 1 lb. 11 oz.             | 15              | 11 lb.<br>Mr. Norman, bail.               | 106       | 194 lb.<br>13 oz. | 1 lb. 13 oz.             | 1               | 3 lb.<br>Mr. A. N. Gilbey.                     |

<sup>1</sup> The highest average recorded in the Club Annals.

<sup>2</sup> From 1897 to 1898, inclusive the returns both of number and average weight are affected by a rule fixing the minimum weight of fish to be killed at 1 lb. instead of 1 lb.

## APPENDIX

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|      |     |                   |               |    |  |    |                  |              |   |                                   |
|------|-----|-------------------|---------------|----|--|----|------------------|--------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| 1899 | 583 | 1124½ lb.         | 2 lb.         | 14 | 5 lb.<br>Mr. Norman.                               | 37 | 68 lb.<br>11 oz. | 1 lb. 15 oz. | 0 | 2 lb. 13 oz.<br>Mr. A. N. Gilbey. |
| 1900 | 526 | 1004½ lb.         | 1 lb. 14½ oz. | 11 | 6 lb.<br>Gen. Wigram,<br>with net.                 | 26 | 49½ lb.          | 1 lb. 13 oz. | 0 | 2 lb. 14 oz.<br>Col. Corkran.     |
| 1901 | 356 | 724 lb.           | 2 lb.         | 19 | 3 lb. 11 oz.<br>Mr. Combe.                         | 18 | 33 lb.           | 1 lb. 13 oz. | 0 | 2 lb. 11 oz.<br>Mr. A. N. Gilbey. |
| 1902 | 348 | 694 lb.           | 2 lb.         | 22 | 4 lb. 6 oz.<br>Lord Moreton.                       | 26 | 63 lb.           | 2 lb. 1 oz.  | 0 | 2 lb. 14 oz.<br>Mr. Combe.        |
| 1903 | 247 | 481 lb.           | 1 lb. 15 oz.  | 9  | 8½ lb.<br>Mr. R. O. Smith and<br>Mr. A. N. Gilbey. | 12 | 24 lb.<br>12 oz. | 2 lb. 1 oz.  | 1 | 3 lb.<br>Mr. Combe.               |
| 1904 | 235 | 472 lb.           | 2 lb.         | 8  | 8½ lb.<br>Mr. A. N. Gilbey<br>and Mr. R. O. Smith. | 4  | 8 lb. 6 oz.      | 2 lb. 14 oz. | 2 | ¾ lb.<br>Mr. Newman.              |
| 1905 | 366 | 793 lb.           | 1 lb. 15 oz.  | 11 | 4 lb.<br>Mr. Young.                                | 41 | 79 lb.<br>11 oz. | 1 lb. 15 oz. | 0 | 2 lb. 13 oz.<br>Lord Moreton.     |
| 1906 | 829 | 1622½ lb.         | 2 lb.         | 14 | 4½ lb.<br>Mr. A. N. Gilbey.                        | 34 | 65½ lb.          | 2 lb.        | 0 | 2 lb. 14 oz.<br>Lord Aberdure.    |
| 1907 | 972 | 1982 lb.<br>5 oz. | 2 lb. 8 oz.   | 37 | 4 lb. 5 oz.<br>Mr. A. N. Gilbey.                   | 38 | 73 lb. 7 oz.     | 1 lb. 15 oz. | 1 | 3 lb.<br>Mr. A. N. Gilbey.        |

## APPENDIX B

*Table showing the Dates of the Appearance of certain Birds and Insects as noted irregularly in the Club Journals over a Period of Sixty-nine Years.*

| Year. | Swallow. | Sand Martin. | House Martin. | Swift. | Cuckoo. | Grasshopper. | Mayfly. | Caper. | Male cricket. | Glow-worm. |
|-------|----------|--------------|---------------|--------|---------|--------------|---------|--------|---------------|------------|
| 1834  | ...      | ...          | ...           | ...    | ...     | ...          | May 22  | ...    | ...           | ...        |
| 1835  | ...      | ...          | ...           | ...    | ...     | ...          | May 22  | May 11 | ...           | ...        |
| 1836  | ...      | ...          | ...           | ...    | ...     | ...          | May 22  | ...    | ...           | ...        |
| 1837  | ...      | ...          | ...           | ...    | ...     | ...          | June 5  | ...    | ...           | ...        |
| 1838  | ...      | ...          | ...           | ...    | ...     | ...          | June 5  | ...    | ...           | ...        |
| 1839  | ...      | ...          | ...           | ...    | ...     | ...          | May 30  | ...    | ...           | ...        |
| 1840  | ...      | ...          | ...           | ...    | ...     | ...          | May 30  | ...    | ...           | ...        |
| 1841  | ...      | ...          | ...           | ...    | ...     | ...          | May 30  | ...    | ...           | ...        |
| 1842  | ...      | ...          | ...           | ...    | ...     | ...          | May 30  | ...    | ...           | ...        |
| 1843  | ...      | ...          | ...           | ...    | ...     | ...          | May 30  | ...    | ...           | ...        |
| 1844  | ...      | ...          | ...           | ...    | ...     | ...          | May 30  | ...    | ...           | ...        |
| 1845  | ...      | ...          | ...           | ...    | ...     | ...          | May 30  | ...    | ...           | ...        |
| 1846  | ...      | ...          | ...           | ...    | ...     | ...          | May 30  | ...    | ...           | ...        |
| 1847  | ...      | ...          | ...           | ...    | ...     | ...          | May 30  | ...    | ...           | ...        |
| 1848  | ...      | ...          | ...           | ...    | ...     | ...          | May 30  | ...    | ...           | ...        |
| 1849  | ...      | ...          | ...           | ...    | ...     | ...          | May 30  | ...    | ...           | ...        |
| 1850  | ...      | ...          | ...           | ...    | ...     | ...          | May 30  | ...    | ...           | ...        |
| 1851  | ...      | ...          | ...           | ...    | ...     | ...          | May 30  | ...    | ...           | ...        |
| 1852  | ...      | ...          | ...           | ...    | ...     | ...          | May 30  | ...    | ...           | ...        |
| 1853  | ...      | ...          | ...           | ...    | ...     | ...          | May 30  | ...    | ...           | ...        |
| 1854  | ...      | ...          | ...           | ...    | ...     | ...          | May 30  | ...    | ...           | ...        |
| 1855  | ...      | ...          | ...           | ...    | ...     | ...          | May 30  | ...    | ...           | ...        |
| 1856  | ...      | ...          | ...           | ...    | ...     | ...          | May 30  | ...    | ...           | ...        |
| 1857  | ...      | ...          | ...           | ...    | ...     | ...          | May 30  | ...    | ...           | ...        |
| 1858  | ...      | ...          | ...           | ...    | ...     | ...          | May 30  | ...    | ...           | ...        |
| 1859  | ...      | ...          | ...           | ...    | ...     | ...          | May 30  | ...    | ...           | ...        |
| 1860  | ...      | ...          | ...           | ...    | ...     | ...          | May 30  | ...    | ...           | ...        |
| 1861  | ...      | ...          | ...           | ...    | ...     | ...          | May 30  | ...    | ...           | ...        |
| 1862  | ...      | ...          | ...           | ...    | ...     | ...          | May 30  | ...    | ...           | ...        |
| 1863  | ...      | ...          | ...           | ...    | ...     | ...          | May 30  | ...    | ...           | ...        |
| 1864  | ...      | ...          | ...           | ...    | ...     | ...          | May 30  | ...    | ...           | ...        |

<sup>1</sup> Probably an error in observation, for on p. 69 the date of the first Mayfly is noted as 18th April.—Ed.





[THE following chapters evidently were intended by Mr. Edward Barnard for publication illustrated by his own drawings. He appears to have been discouraged by Mr. C. Stokes of Verulam Buildings, Broad Street (probably a publisher), who, in returning the MS. on 16th December 1833, remarks that "the account of accidents has too much the character of individuality—too much the jokes of a coterie for publication," and adds, "of course you do not mean to give all the drawings."

It may be thought that much of the interest has evaporated with the demise of the actors in the scenes depicted, that the humour of many passages, and of the drawings illustrating them, is somewhat strained, and that the value of the observations on natural history has been superseded by subsequent research. No doubt that is so; but these chapters, enlivened by the author's drawings, illustrate so well the social spirit animating the Club in its youth, that I feel the records would be incomplete were Mr. Barnard's treatise omitted. The illustrations in the text are by the author.—Ed.]



YE ANGLERS MAY WORRY OF YOUR LIVES IN YOUR WOODS,  
BUT HERE IS A LADY THAT IS FISHING FOR FISHES.

END OF THE

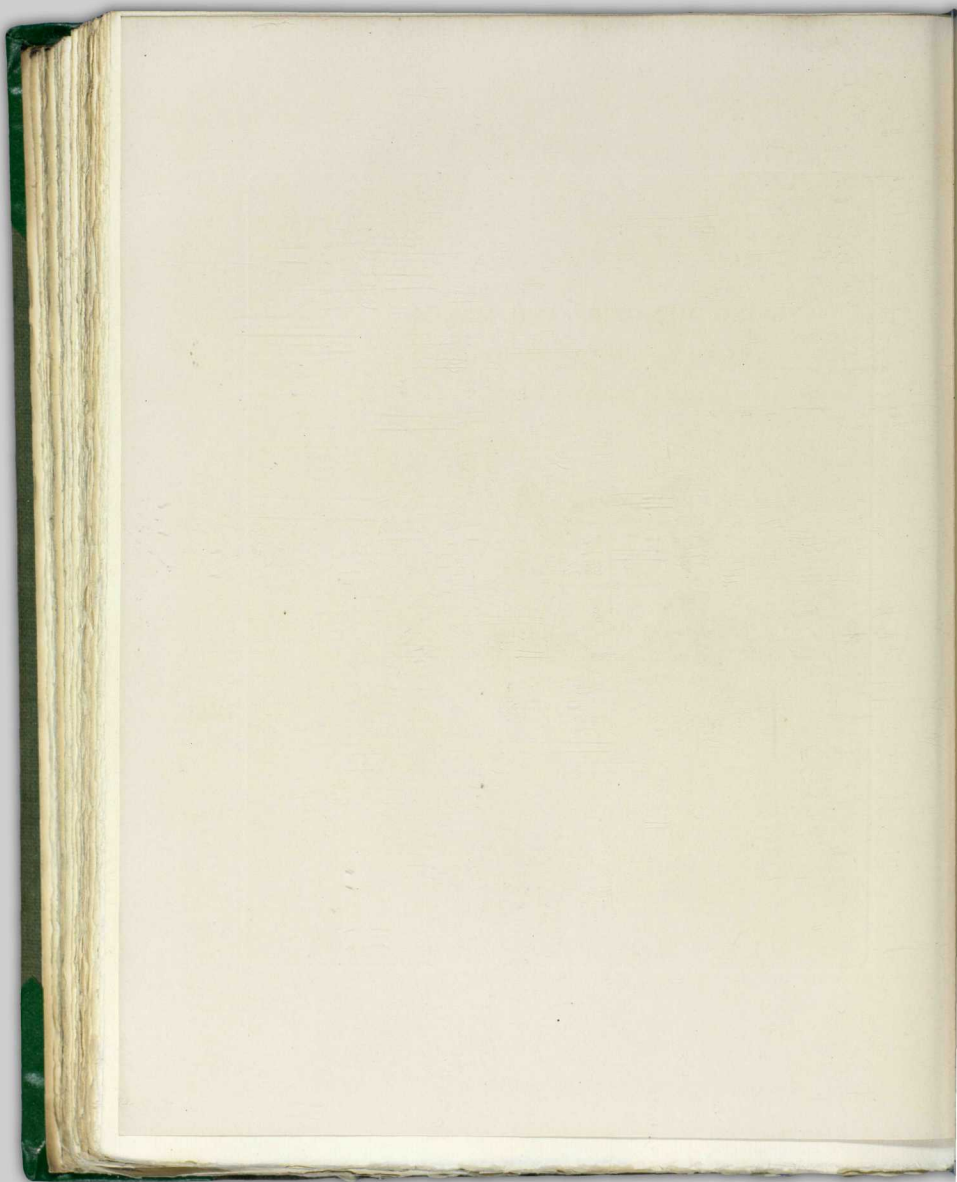
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It may be thought that much of the interest has evaporated with the lapse of the years in the scenes depicted, that the humour of many passages, even of the drawings illustrating them, is somewhat strained, and that the value of the observations on natural history has been superseded by subsequent research. No doubt that is so; but these chapters, enriched by the author's drawings, illustrate so well the social spirit animating the Club in its youth, that I feel the records would be incomplete were Mr. Barnard's treatise omitted. The illustrations in the text are by the author.—Ed.]



YE ANGLERS MAY BOAST OF YOUR LINE & YOUR HOOK,  
BUT HERE IS A JACK THAT IS TAKEN BY COOKE.

NOV. 1838.

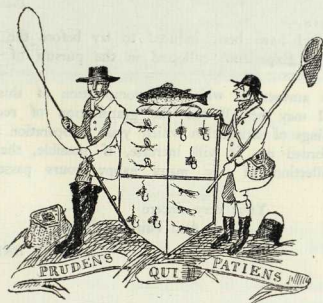




# ANGLING MEMORIES AND MAXIMS

BY THE LATE EDWARD BARNARD

*Illustrated by the Author and others*



TO THE MEMBERS OF THE HOUGHTON  
FISHING CLUB

*December 1833.*

GENTLEMEN,—

I have been induced to lay before the Public the result of some Experience collected in the pursuit of a favourite Recreation.

If to the amusement which the composition of this work has afforded me I may be allowed the gratification of recording the unalloyed feelings of satisfaction which your co-operation and Friendship have afforded me, it will increase, if possible, the lively and grateful recollection of the many happy hours passed in your Society by

Your very sincere

And Faithful Friend,

EDWARD BARNARD.



"Equitare in arundine longâ  
Siquem delectet barbâtum, amentia verset."

—Horace, Sat. ii. 3.

## CHAPTER I

"The most important principle perhaps in Life is to have a pursuit—a useful one if possible, and at all events an innocent one."—DAVY'S *Salmonia*.

THAT man is really to be pitied, who has not some hobby. All men have amusements to beguile their leisure hours, and are more or less attached to them in proportion as enthusiasm or indifference predominates in their natural constitutions. But the being who wanders through life without some favourite hobby to ride must be doomed to the horrors attendant upon a briefless barrister or fee-less physician disappointed with the world; discontented with himself he finds the revolving sun adding to the misery of the preceding day and not improving the prospect of happiness in the next. His restless night gives no promise of relief to the mind, and he rises without occupation, without hope, listless and miserable. Let us reverse the picture, and

place the contrast to this model of misery even under circumstances of difficulty and discouragement; yet the irksome hours fly before the enthusiast, and though ready for the claims which business, friendship, or benevolence may have upon his attention, the ardour of his mind pursuing his favourite object, keeps his spirits buoyant and alive to fresh energy; he sleeps soundly, he rises refreshed; and his day is passed in recollection of its enjoyment and in anticipation of similar gratification on the following.

I have been led to these remarks by the following memorandum found among the papers of an eminent divine lately deceased; he was active and zealous in all his duties, and laboured in the vineyard with advantage to his fellow-creatures; his life was one of unremitting energy in his profession; but his leisure was devoted to fishing, and his natural love of the art as a boy, followed up through manhood and only terminating with his life, was the hobby which he rode for many years. I give it in his own words:—

"Where have you been? you naughty boy," said my mother when I was only six years old.—"Where has he been, nurse, to get so wet, and so covered with black mud?"

"I told him, ma'am, he must not do it, but the squire had let off the



great pond, and young Master got into the mud after a fish which he could not hold fast and he tumbled in trying to recover it."

The nurse confessed that the squire had rather encouraged my attempt, and I therefore escaped tolerably well with a moderate scolding, having



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promised of course never to do so any more; which promise I in some measure determined to keep, from a prophetic admonition of the nurse that if I did it again an eel would twist round my legs and bite me severely and thus I should be smothered in the mud.

I had no immediate opportunity of renewing my attempts; but one day I called with my father on the curate of the village. Having



duly surveyed the contents of the room, as all boys do, I admired a beautiful cane in one corner, but observed that the ferule at the bottom was almost off, when the kind-hearted curate unscrewed the bottom and also removed the brass head at the top of the cane, producing from the inside two joints of a fishing rod with which he occasionally amused himself in the neighbourhood. My curiosity was alive, and he at last silenced my countless questions by the promise of taking me with him the following morning to see him fish. My father rather demurred to this proposal, not so much from any want of confidence in his friend the curate, as from his mistrust of me after the adventure in the mud; aided no doubt by his own natural antipathy to wet or dirt of any kind—a most unfortunate antipathy certainly for a man with five sons who never lost an opportunity of dabbling in the deepest water or the thickest mud when fish were to be taken. He was delighted to see us happy and so far partook of our enjoyment, but he chose a secure, dry spot at a distance, and his fears for our catching cold, and anxious admonitions to us to take care how far we ventured, always reminded me of a hen that had been cruelly compelled to hatch a sitting of duck's eggs. Two gudgeons



and a small perch were the limited but sufficient reward for the contented mind of our village curate: I had already considered my happiness complete by his capture of the two gudgeons, and although I was in some manner checked by my first attempt to encounter the formidable back fin of the perch which he caught afterwards, and could not help looking occasionally at my bleeding hand when the curate's back was turned, yet I persevered; but determined to respect in future a fish so protected by Providence from any sudden attack of its enemies.

The events of this day made a deep impression on me, and although after the first expression of my delight on my return home, I said but little on the subject, I got the gardener to cut me a stick fit for my purpose, and with a piece of string and a crooked pin I made much havoc among the minnows and sticklebacks in the stream close by. A private school to which I was sent restrained for a time my natural genius, but I coaxed my aunt to give me Isaak Walton, and pored over the works of this great prototype in silent admiration. I had no opportunity for practice, but in theory I succeeded to my utmost satisfaction; and when I first commenced during the holidays with a shilling rod in a pond belonging to my uncle stocked with large carp, I was so eager on the first disappearance of my float, that I pulled hard enough to leave the fish in full possession of the hook—in this way I disposed of six hooks successively, and, having broken my rod with the last and largest fish, I determined, like Seged, King of Ethiopia, to pursue a different system in search of happiness on the following day. My progress in the art was gradual but my enthusiasm unbounded.

At twelve years old I was sent to Eton. This had been the great object of my ambition, and I looked forward to all the various anticipations which crowd upon the youthful mind in quick succession, and form the happiest period of our existence. It is extraordinary that among these anticipations, I had hitherto regarded Father Thames with such reverential awe that I had never conceived he could in any way afford an angler any amusement. I had looked upon his majestic course as one of a superior order not to be approached with the same familiarity that might be hazarded with any of the various tributary streams that own his sovereignty. I forgot that Pope had, in his *Windsor Forest*, recorded of this river—

“In genial Spring, beneath the quivering shade  
Where cooling vapours breathe along the mead,

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The patient fisher takes his silent stand  
Intent, his angle trembling in his hand;  
With looks unmoved, he hopes the scaly breed,  
And eyes the dancing cork and bending reed.  
Our plenteous streams a various race supply,  
The bright-eyed perch with fins of Tyrian dye,  
The silver eel, in shining volumes rolled,  
The yellow carp, in scales bedrop'd with gold,  
Swift trouts diversified with crimson stains,  
And pikes, the tyrants of the wat'ry plains."

I had not been at Eton, however, many hours before I formed certain speculations concerning Barnes' Pool, and I surveyed the immediate premises of my dame's ditch, Perch Hole, and Fellows' Pond. I took Isaak Walton in my pocket, and read his instructions for perch fishing in sixth form bench; and, though on my first start for a piscatorial excursion (which was in strictness against the laws of the school), as I was turning round a corner with my rod in one hand and a fish kettle with live minnows in the other, I ran plump against Goodall, filling at the same time his shoes with the overflowing water. His genuine goodness of heart, although suffering from the inconvenience I had occasioned him, dismissed me with—"Silly boy! Well! a very harmless amusement, I believe, if pursued in moderation; but mind, I shall expect a better copy of verses in consequence."

I felt glad then that I was a fisherman, whereby I had elicited such a trait of good-nature from a master. I caught nothing; but I never passed two hours more to my satisfaction, from the pleasing reflections suggested by the kind feeling exhibited by him towards me.

I always respected the slightest hint of advice that man gave me afterwards, and I should be ungrateful if I did not acknowledge many important admonitions from him: an o'erflowing measure of gratitude has been dealt out to him in my frequent recollections. How often do trifles of this kind originate a very different feeling towards a master; who without either natural good nature, or the tact to conceal his bad temper, treats those under him with harshness and severity.

During my stay at Eton I had made a rapid progress in the art; I had gone through all the various gradations of bottom fishing, live bait, fly fishing and trolling; I was a dead hand at haltering jack, tickling trout and sniggling eels; I was successful with the casting

net, although once I had nearly paid the penalty of my love of sport, by forgetting that the meshes of the net might possibly hang in certain buttons of my jacket; and when I exerted all my force for a distant throw off the Cobbler below Windsor Bridge, I was in the stream simultaneously with the net, and only rescued by a friend, who, with the



assistance of a boat-hook, pulled out the net, the gudgeons and myself at one haul.

I was dignified with the honorary degree of *Piscator* as my cognomen among the boys, and felt from that time that I should be deficient in gratitude for the honour thus conferred on me if I did not make myself worthy of being considered henceforward a true follower of *Isaak Walton* and adopt fishing as my future hobby.

Mankind are undoubtedly led frequently by natural and early inclination; but there are also various incidents in after life which turn the scale of the abandonment or further pursuit of these inclinations. My natural propensity was evident; but my vanity also was roused by the respect paid by my school-fellows to my piscatorial prowess, and I was urged on to study the arcana of the art. No lady's muff or feathers were safe when I was near them if they contained the fur or feather suited by texture and colour for the particular dubbing, herl or hackle which my magazine required for the purpose of making flies. I was always making experiments with different dyes to get the exact colour for my purpose, and my hands daily exhibited various hues according to the experiment of the morning. My father consulted a neighbouring gamekeeper for a receipt to restore the hair upon the ears of a favourite spaniel, under the erroneous impression that some local fever had affected the poor animal; whereas the daily combing to which I had subjected



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him had enriched my collection, as Walton recommends, "with the fine down of a brown spaniel from the back of the ears." I need hardly add that the evil resulting from all collections of this sort recoiled upon me, and that my room became so full of moths, and my clothes, &c., so much destroyed in consequence, that I was put in quarantine as an infectious subject, and my clothes and collection burnt by the general consent of every person in the house. I fear that my fondness for my pursuit had made me a public nuisance. I was always preparing different receipts for varnish, for alluring oils, or something worse; and if an innocent stranger broke in upon my retirement when I was busy tying hooks, with a hearty handshake which I could not refuse, his confusion was more evident than mine, when he found that the excellence of the cobbler's wax that I had been using refused a dissolution of partnership except by mutual consent.

Thus far I had gone through all the initiatory degrees, when I entered on the world at large and it remained only for me thenceforward to take care that, in the opportunities that might be afforded for practising the art, I did not disgrace the opinions of those who had dubbed me Piscator.

The various occupations of business left but little time for the chance of even an occasional day at long intervals; but no opportunity was lost, and business was eagerly despatched to be in time for an outside place by the mail, where, with my fishing rods lashed to the iron of the roof, I had time to speculate on the prospect of sport for the following morning, to watch the direction of the clouds and the changes of temperature. How slow towards the dawn of day have I thought the coachman, and how often have I asked the guard whether he was not behind time! How have I longed to leave some loitering passenger behind, who at last appeared after the second monitory blast of the horn, and then coolly said—"Just wait till I've got my change"! Every moment seemed an hour till I reached the spot, and when the coach began to descend the hill towards the valley, and the smell of the burning peat borne on the southern breeze welcomed my approach—

*Persarum vigui rege beator.*

The eagerness with which my tackle was collected, my basket supplied with provision for the day, and the expedition with which I started, seeking sometimes the streams, sometimes the pools or peat-pits, according

as the situation of the place or the state of the day guided my choice, was only to be equalled by the uninterrupted enjoyment that pervaded my mind. Every angler knows that fishing is the most uncertain of all sports; so many niceties of wind, weather, and of causes respecting the feeding of fish, which are hidden from us all, must conspire to afford sport in perfection. This many think a sufficient reason for condemning it altogether as an irksome and uninteresting amusement. It is to my mind quite the contrary; for, in proportion to the uncertainty and the difficulty, the hope and interest is excited, and the sport, if obtained, is then complete. If only moderate success follows, it is an admirable moral lesson to reflect upon, and be content with what we have caught; and, if the worst befalls us, and no single fish rewards the patience and the toil, surely the exercise, the health, the opportunity for studying nature, ought to satisfy the mind of a reasonable man that his time is not mis-spent nor his labour wasted. Does he despise it as a solitary amusement? Let me ask him in the words of Milton—

“What call'st thou solitude? Is not the earth  
With various living creatures, and the air,  
Replenished, and all these at thy command  
To come and play before thee? Know'st thou not  
Their language and their ways? They also know,  
And reason not contemptibly; with these  
Find pastime, and bear rule; thy realm is large.”

If he is already acquainted with natural history, can he desire a wider field for the ability and employment of an intelligent mind than such leisure will afford him? Is he acquainted with the structure or the properties of the plants on which he treads? Has he observed the habits of the birds that fly around him? Has he ever attempted to trace the varieties of the food for fish with which the water swarms? or has he studied the habits even of the very objects that form the source of his anticipated sport?

When time did not admit of a distant excursion I have had recourse to a station at Kingston or Hampton in a punt, to wage war with the gudgeons, taking the occasional chance of a few perch or barbel into my calculation. I do not advise those who are not very far gone to try this amusement often, for “Patience in a Punt” is the dullest resource of the angler, except during the very time that the fish are biting. This



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species of angling is more sought after by a particular sect of piscatorial philosophers, who never start on these expeditions without the necessary materials for ascertaining the result of a series of experiments on solids and fluids, as well as on the nature of the particular gas which is evolved from the best Dutch canaster. I confess that as the quarter-deck of a punt does not admit of exercise, such a resource to fall back upon when the gudgeons do not bite, is very excusable; and it is most prudent when the fish are not upon the feed to set them an example. But I recommend all modern anglers to confine their repast by the river side to the simple fare that Isaak Walton writes of, and to reserve themselves for the relish which the result of their skill may furnish for the more substantial meal after the sport is over. The Putney puntite moors himself to the bridge at a particular state of the tide, where he remains during the few hours the tide serves, watching his float in hopes of a few roach; which obtained, he adjourns with his friends who take similar stations at the other piers of the bridge; and, when the state of the tide ceases to afford sport, they all retire to a tavern to enjoy, not the roach, but the delicacy of stewed Thames eels, the whole of which are brought in well-boats from Holland, and those that exhibit the faintest symptoms of vitality selected by the landlord for the dinner of the day.<sup>1</sup> The roach are taken home in triumph to the wife and children.

Those, however, who follow this branch of the sport look to it as to the means of passing a few hours away from some business which admits not of a more protracted absence, and such members of the fraternity are not generally adepts at the more abstruse mysteries of the trade of a professed angler. The higher branches are trolling for jack, fly fishing and spinning the minnow. At the two first very many are expert, at the latter very few. A really good man at spinning a minnow is rarely met with. It is very difficult, but a skilful hand with proper weather has the finest possible sport. I can fancy many who are not fishermen exclaiming—"What can be the fun of spinning a minnow any more

<sup>1</sup> It is rather surprising to read that London purveyors depended upon Dutch eels so early as 1833, for there were numerous eel-weirs on the Thames in those days. There are still a few; but they depend for their catch upon eels which ascend the sea into the Severn, and pass into the Thames through the canal, for the mouth of the Thames has been closed by pollution against the passage of eels for more than fifty years. Indeed the water got so impure that the Dutchmen had to give up importing live eels in wells, for they were all poisoned in the river. The Thames Conservancy, however, have wrought wonders of late years, and the current is now so pure that smelts ascend regularly to Richmond and Teddington.—ED.

than a teetotum?" It would be in vain to argue the point with such vandals.

These last are branches of the sport to which, in the latter years of my life, I chiefly devoted myself, and the streams near London had all been visited in turn when it was my good fortune to meet a friend who had fished in Hampshire, and who spoke to me of the Avon, the Test and the Itchen as the rivers in which those should try their skill who had taken the degree of *Senior Angler*. These streams are large, and, having their rise and their course principally through the chalk formation, possess a crystal clearness that at times bids defiance to the finest tackle and most practised fisherman. There is another powerful natural reason which renders the sport in these rivers uncertain. It is their character to produce minnows, freshwater shrimps, snails, and the larvæ of various water insects in great abundance on which the fish feed. Variety and plenty of food makes a man dainty; short commons make him relish what he can get. But an extract from some observations on the unlimited supply of food in the river Test made by an able naturalist in the Houghton Club Book, puts this question in such a reasonable and intelligible form, that it is better to give his view of the subject.

"Now to suppose, that when a trout has this accumulation of epicurean dainties always before him, upon which he may feed *ad libitum* morning, noon, and night, he will for your gratification condescend to take your compound of wool, fur and feather, which you dignify with the appellation of a fly, is to suppose him a far greater simpleton than he really is. It appears to me that it is pretty much the same thing to expect him to do so, as for him, if he could come ashore, to expect to see you nibbling at his own effigy upon a sign-board, or hacking at a barbarous representation of a shoulder of mutton, instead of enjoying the realities which the landlord can set before you."

"Hampshire is the county, then, where I should like to try my hand," said I to my friend. "Where is the best place?"

"The neighbourhood of Stockbridge; but you cannot get leave unless you are acquainted with some of the members of the different Clubs who assemble there annually at particular periods. The water is strictly preserved."

My inquiries fortunately led me to a friend who gave me an invitation to join the Houghton Club for the approaching season. He confirmed

## ANGLING MEMORIES AND MAXIMS 187

the account I had previously heard; afforded me some insight into the nature of the streams, and described the wide shallows, &c., in which it is necessary to wade at times for the best sport. I accepted the invitation joyfully indeed, and immediately turned my thoughts to put my tackle, &c., in the best possible order for the coming campaign. Wading in the shallows, thought I, for the best sport, at my time of life would not answer—it would be imprudent to stand long in the water. I'll get a pair of water-proof boots: Lord Byron says—

“And those sustained he, boots it well or ill,  
Since not to sink beneath, is something still.”

I accordingly wrote a letter to a noted Fen bootmaker at Yarmouth in Norfolk, and as he had never seen me I gave him the length of the boots I wished to have, and measured with the greatest nicety the size of my foot; but I omitted other particulars which were necessary and which produced the following letter:—

“YARMOUTH.

“SIR,—The inclosed boots I hope will fit, and please you, but if you honors me with orders at any future time, pray send with the measure of your foot the round of your calf and the top of your thigh; for it is impossible for me to tell by the pattern sent whether your leg and thigh be made like a German flute or a sugar-loaf.—I am, sir, yours,

“T. SHORT.”

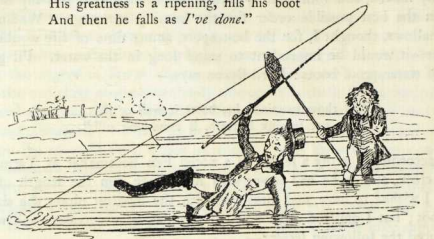
Nature having kindly gifted me with the happy medium between the German flute and the sugar-loaf the boots did fit, and did credit afterwards to Mr. Short's excellent workmanship by effectually keeping out the water.

These large Fen boots, or the lighter wading boots made of the Indian rubber cloth, are excellent things for a fisherman; at the same time some inconvenience is experienced occasionally, as every one who has worn them can attest; and as those who have never exposed themselves to the difficulty may suppose, if they fancy an eager sportsman, having waded to high-water-mark to reach a fish which tempts him by repeatedly rising. There stands the expectant Piscator, so bent on his object that he is unconscious of the gradual but close alliance which is forming

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between the upper leathers of his boots and the circumjacent deposit of the soil; and the water

"When he thinks, good easy man, full surely  
His greatness is a ripening, fills his boot  
And then he falls as *I've done*."



Or else when the fish is hooked and he hopes to bear him down stream in triumph—his feet refuse their office, a sort of nightmare in broad daylight overcomes him.

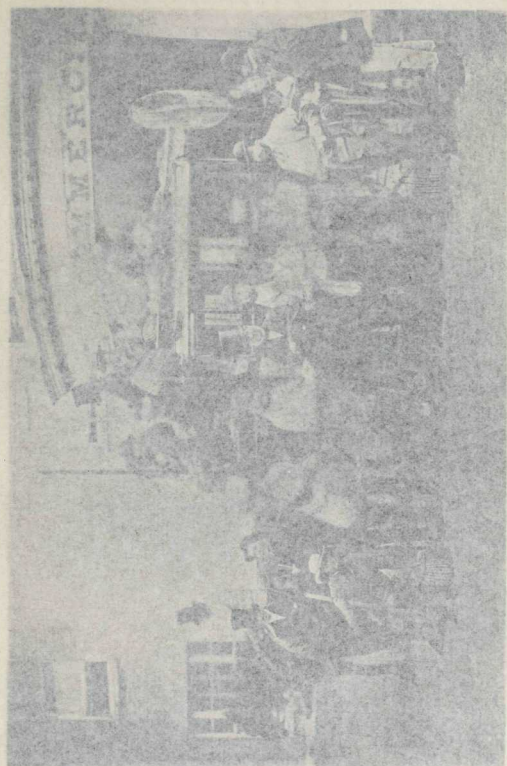
"As when some balmy sleep has closed the sight,  
The sickly fancy labors in the night;  
We seem to run, and, destitute of force,  
Our sinking limbs forsake us in the course.  
In vain we heave for breath, in vain we cry;  
The nerves unbraced their usual strength deny."

But the happy period arrived and I found myself at Stockbridge. Thomson must surely have had a similar expedition fresh in his memory when he wrote, in his *Castle of Indolence*—

"It was I ween a lovely spot of ground,  
And there a season atween May and June  
Half pranked with Spring, with Summer half embrowned."

At the door of the inn I saw a few of the men belonging to the place, all of whom I observed had hooks and artificial flies stuck in their hats. When they saw my fishing rods, they looked at each other and eyed me attentively. One of them offered to take my rod as I descended from the coach, and I asked him what he thought of the weather?





THE EMERSON MUSEUM  
AT BOSTON, 1888.



between the upper leathers of his boots and the circumjacent deposit of the soil; and the water.

"When he stinks, good men may tell easily  
His position in a ripening, full sea loch;  
And then he tells us 'Tis done!'"



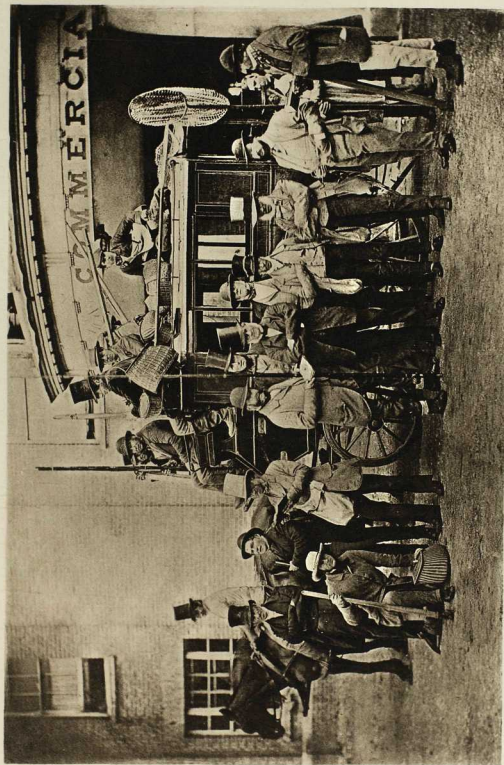
He then began to tell us of his adventures in the river, and he began to hear him down stream  
as though he were a great deal of distance in broad daylight.

"As when some valley deep has closed the night,  
The misty water lingers in the night;  
We peep in vain, and, destitute of light,  
Our sinking limbs forsake us in the course.  
In vain we leave for breath, in vain we cry;  
The nerves unheave their usual strength deny."

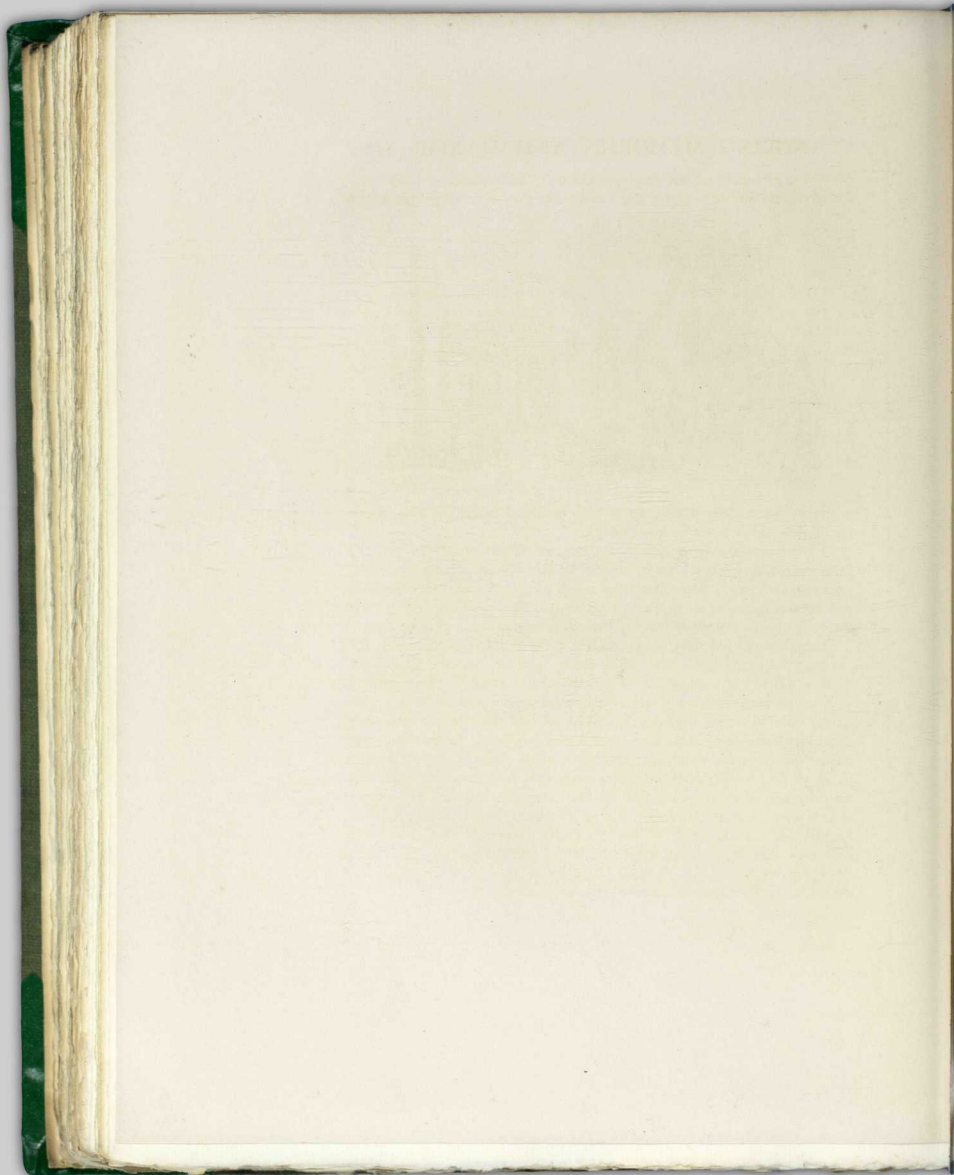
But the evening period arrived and I found myself at Stockbridge.  
The next day I had a similar expedition forth in his memory  
and he told us of his adventures in the river.

"As I was a little way of ground,  
The water was deep, and the night was June  
The water was deep, and the night was June  
The water was deep, and the night was June."

At the close of the day I saw a lot of the men belonging to the place, all  
of whom I thought had been that artificial flies stuck in their hats.  
When they saw my fishing rods, they looked at each other and eyed me  
attentively. One of them offered to take my rod as I descended from  
the coach, and I asked him what he thought of the weather?



THE GROSVENOR ARMS  
STOCKBRIDGE.



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"Why, I hardly knows what to make on't," he replied. "It ha' been a cluttersome sort of a night, and I don't like they whirlpuffs this morn-



ing, they never does fishing no good. Besides I heard the eels smack last night—that's never no good sign."

I went into the Grosvenor Arms, where I found my friend and the party preparing for breakfast in a room full of various deposits of rods, panniers, reels, &c. Some were canvassing the merits of particular flies and comparing notes as to the correctness of the imitations which their respective books possessed; others were mending tackle or making fresh.

Breakfast did not take long, and the party prepared to get ready for the start. I found upon assembling again, however, that the appearance of most was totally changed by the varieties of dress and fanciful caparison with which each was now clothed; there did not appear to be any particular rule by which they were guided; all had their fancies, and each thought his the best. One man wore a very large wide-flapped hat, that hung down over his shoulders; another a small common dog's hair hat, value 3s. 6d., bought at the opposite shop, that just fitted his head, and the brim turned up all round like an old overgrown mushroom.<sup>1</sup> Their clothes were variously fashioned, but all of dark colours. I requested to be informed of the rules of the Club, and I was told that there were only two—one that no fish was to be killed under a pound—the other,

<sup>1</sup> Readers who are familiar with sporting prints of the Georgian era will perceive that easy fishing costume was enough of a novelty to occasion comment.—ED.



grounded upon the liberal principles of Free Trade, that no member was to fish before the 1st of January nor after the 31st of December in any year—Leap Year not excepted.

We sallied forth armed at all points with rods, landing nets and baskets; the attendant squires following each Knight of the Angle, as eager as the knights themselves to earn the palm of victory. The weather which the morning brought after the "cluttersome night" and the portending "whirlipuffs" was warm and cloudy, and there was for some time nothing moving on the water—no fly, no fish to be seen—an excellent opportunity to reflect on the title of Isaak Walton's book, *The Contemplative Man's Recreation*—

"At last,  
The clouds consign their treasures to the fields,  
And, softly shaking on the dimpled pool  
Prelusive drops, let all their moisture flow  
In large effusion o'er the freshened world."

The rain fell heavily and some of the party began to think of shelter. Most of them had some waterproof covering for protection against heavy

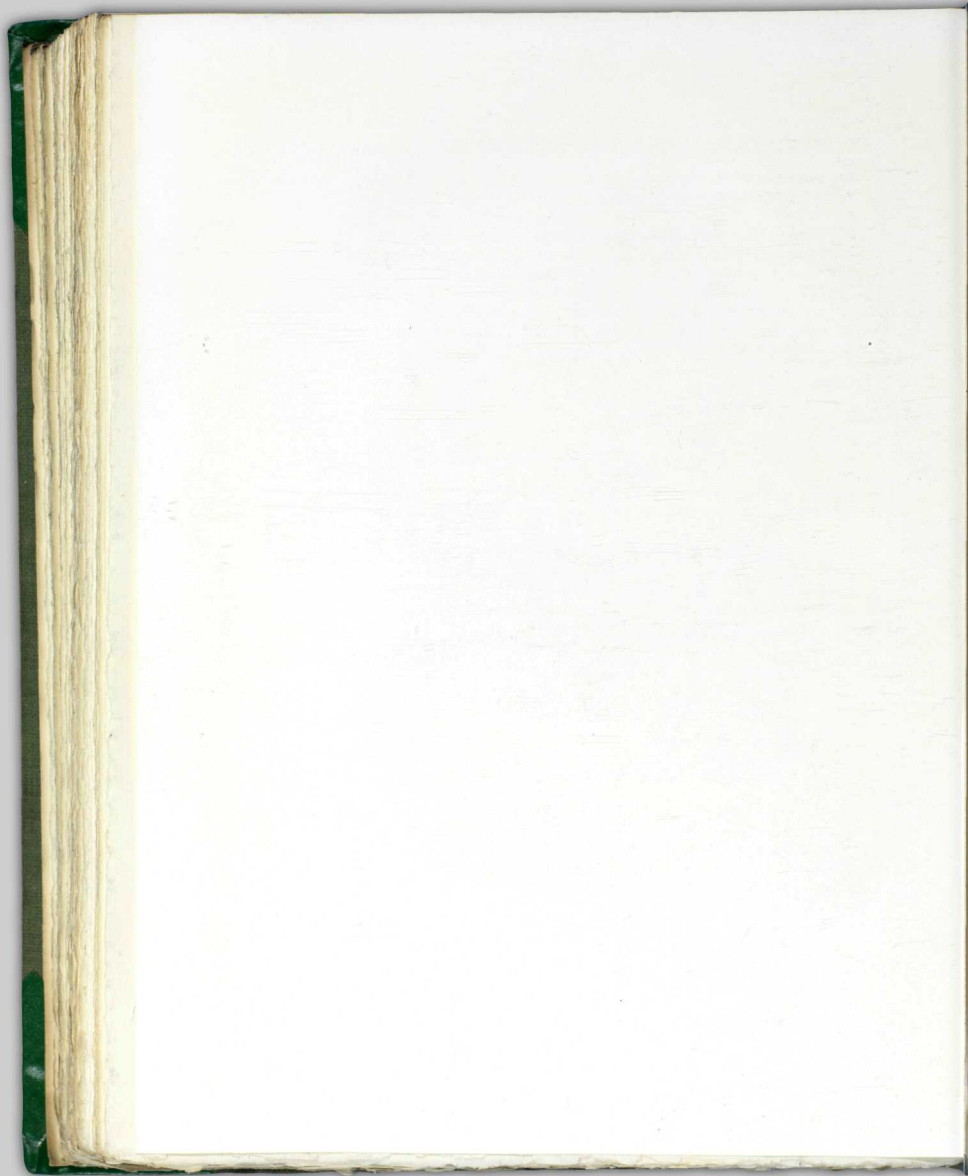


rains. One was made like a smock frock, another angler had a piece of cloth with only a hole in the middle through which he put his head; a third had a small hood attached to the smock frock which he put on over his cap, looking like an Esquimaux Indian or an old country midwife summoned in the worst weather of winter to the shrine of *Lucina*. It is





"WE SALLIED FORTH, ARMED AT ALL POINTS."  
*By George Jones, R.A.*



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impossible for any person who has not been present to enter fully into the reflections arising from the scene presented by this motley group, except by the aid of E. B.'s pencil.

My thoughts during the shower naturally turned to the companions to whom I had been introduced, and I found that, besides the gratification afforded by the society of this Club and the sport which the river offered, it was particularly curious to hear the observations and gather anecdotes of the different members; to mark the peculiarities of character, and the various ways in which, according to their different fancies or constitution of mind and body, they all started by various means to attain the same end. Some had been fishermen from their youth, others had adopted the amusement late in life; some followed it occasionally, more from the love of the society it afforded than of the sport. In this curious assemblage I saw the London beau and the grave philosopher, the old English country squire and the modern political economist, the dignitary of the Church, the patron of the turf, the distinguished artist, with a proper season of the military, naval, and medical professions. With such mixed and anomalous materials, what can more strongly attest the genuine good fellowship that prevails in the heart of the true disciple of Walton than that the apple of discord was never yet thrown among them? No angry feelings destroy the harmony of their social intercourse, no selfish jealousy embitters their hour of solitary retreat. Their theory is peace and contentment, and their practice, mutual accommodation and goodwill. Their watchword is good-humour, and their countersign unanimity.

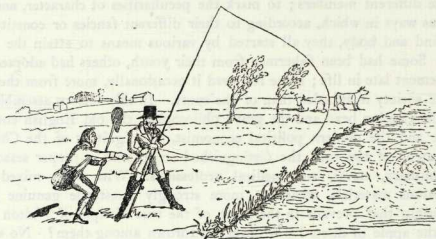
"All then is full, possessing and possest,  
No craving void left aching in the breast;  
Ev'n thought meets thought ere from the lips it parts,  
And each warm wish springs mutual from the heart."

A glorious shower which lasted until 12 o'clock at last cleared off, and the weather was just that which would have been wished by the most fastidious sportsman.

How shall I faithfully describe the delight of a favourable day in June when the brisk south-west wind is curling upon the water? no chill in the air, the sun only to be seen at intervals of short duration as the darkening clouds rapidly pass to obscure its power—when the approaching strong rise of Mayfly is indicated by the swallows collecting on the surface of the river, as they skim with rapid flight to catch their fluttering

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prey before it has strength to reach a place of safety. How shall I describe the mixed emotion of hope and fear that, seizing the angler's bosom, keeps him in a throbbing state of animation, when the trout first begin to take their daily meal at the top of the water? when as he watches anxiously the successive rising of different fish, and debates in his mind which he shall turn to first as best worthy of his consideration, he hears his attendant exclaim—"My eyes, what a wapper! look there, sir, did



you see that?" and turning to the place where the man's eyes are directed with his mouth wide open—he observes, not the fish certainly, but sufficient evidence in the magnitude of the circling waves that the object in question was a customer of weight and respectability.

"As on the smooth expanse of chrystal lakes  
The sinking stone at first a circle makes,  
The trembling surface, by the motion stirred,  
Spreads in a second circle, and a third;  
Wide and more wide, the floating rings advance,  
Fill all the wat'ry plains, and to the margin dance."

"Give me a fresh fly.<sup>1</sup> That I think is just the spot."

"A little nearer the bunch of weeds, sir."

The wind blows the line into the weeds and the fly is lost.

"Another fly, John; there he is again, a noble fellow, I hope we shall have him."

"Lawk a mercy, sir, didn't he rise at you then?"

<sup>1</sup> "Blowing," with the natural Mayfly.—ED.

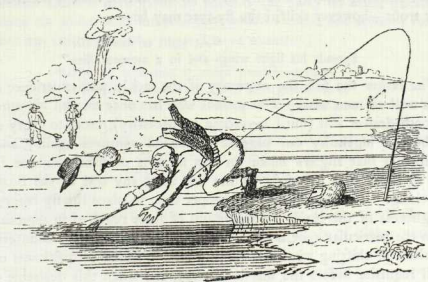
## ANGLING MEMORIES AND MAXIMS 193

"Yes, but the wind took the fly from the water just before he showed himself—now then—hang it! he has taken the fly off, and I fear I pricked him: he will not rise again at present—well, never mind, if we cannot catch the largest, we'll try to take two of the next best instead."

This prudent determination was soon acted upon, and crowned with success. The aldermanic style in which the trout were busy with their dinner kept John busy in landing fish and gathering grass, to pay the last honours to their departed spirits previously to depositing them in the basket. All the meadows exhibited a busy scene, flies, swallows, fish, fishermen and attendants appeared all intensely occupied with their respective objects. Suddenly a voice about fifty yards from me exclaimed in an agitated and hurried accent—"The devil!!" succeeded by a tremendous splash.

"The waters dash against the shore,  
The hollow caverns roar,  
The rocks return the dreadful sound,  
Convulsions shake the ground."

This was caused by an innocent stranger who had hooked a fish, and had been dipping at it for ten minutes with a landing net like a teaspoon,



and becoming at last desperate from repeated failure had overreached himself.



"With cane extended far, he sought  
To steer it close to land,  
But still the prize when nearly caught  
Escaped his eager hand."

I had only time to say—"Come to me, my dear fellow, and I'll pull you out; but I'm so occupied at present I am sure you would be shocked at my leaving off fishing at this critical moment."

To this friendly attention on my part he only replied as soon as he had sputtered forth the water and recovered his breath—

"Si veluti merulis intentus decedit anceps  
In puteum foreamur; licet, succurrite, longum  
Clamet—Io Cives!!! non sit qui tollere curet."

The hours pass unheeded in this excitement, unknown to those who despise the art, and the first notice of the rapid progress of the day is the slackened rise of fly and the diminished activity of the fish. Still, however, some continue to rise and those in general the largest fish, so that, though to catch many is then out of the question, still the chance of capturing the largest fish of the day detains the fisherman at his post. Now is the time for the true disciple to show his judgment and his skill, without showing *himself*, and no more of his tackle than is needful, for a heavy trout—however skilful the fly-tyer may be—

"At sight of human ties  
Spreads his light wings and in a moment flies."

The larger the fish the more shy of the tackle, and experience makes fish as well as men wise. The patient who has once trusted his mouth to the tooth-drawer will (until overcome by necessity) resort to every excuse that human ingenuity can suggest before he ventures again; and the experiments that anglers make on the mouths of fishes do not induce them to think that the sight of the line adds any zest to the food they are seeking. The selection of the proper time to place the fly before him, the lightness of the hand, the maximum of force required in directing the line to the particular spot, and in overcoming the constantly counteracting difficulties of shifting wind and varying eddies, added to quickness of eye, are all requisite before the fish is hooked, and when this desirable object is effected and—

"at once he darts along  
Deep struck, and runs out all the lengthened line"—

## ANGLING MEMORIES AND MAXIMS 195

then the coolness and steadiness, the observation of dangerous weeds, posts or roots of trees, the knowledge of the time to stand still, or when and which way to move, are all necessary until—

“with yielding hand  
That feels him still, yet to his furious course  
Gives way, you now retiring, following now  
Across the stream, exhaust his idle rage;  
Till floating broad upon his breathless side,  
And to his fate abandoned, to the shore  
You gaily drag your unresisting prey.”

Or as Moore says—

“In sweet abandonment resigned,  
Blushing for all her struggles past,  
And murmuring I am thine at last.”

But there is a limit to the appetite of fishes as of ourselves, and the fly which, though lessened in numbers, still appeared occasionally, floated down the stream unnoticed. The party began to reassemble towards the tent where dinner was provided, and compared notes as to their sport. Mysterious answers were given by some of the party on being questioned, and many sly looks were interchanged which I could not account for, and a report was current about a large fish—a monster;

“And all who told it added something new,  
And all who heard it, made enlargement too,  
In every ear it spread, in every tongue it grew.”

Speculation was busy as to who had caught the largest fish—many of the party made excuses, however, for not opening their panniers. The signal for dinner gave a turn to the conversation, and a merry hour and a half was soon gone.

After dinner we had a visit from the owner of the field where the tent was pitched, a hearty Hampshire farmer upwards of eighty years old.

“How are you, Master?”

“Why, thankye, sir, I be pure and hearty in health as you may say, but my back be so bad.”

“What’s the matter with your back? You’ve got the rheumatism, I suppose.”

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"No, sir; it beant the rheumatis; the doctor tells me (applying his hand to the part affected) 'tis what they calls the Bum-ague."

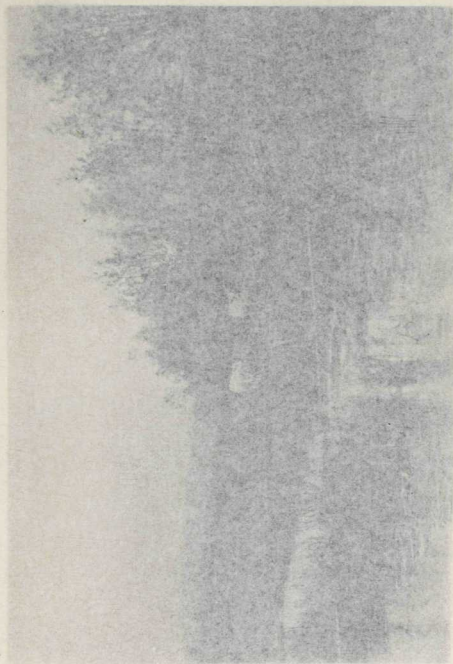
I never heard the true etymology of lumbago before, and the peculiar Hampshire dialect with which the old man pronounced it afforded no little mirth to the party.

After this a move to the rods was made, and we branched off in different directions for the rise of fish at sunset. Waiting for the moment to arrive when the sport begins in a warm still evening, each fisherman takes his station with eyes directed to the most likely spots. Scarcely a sound to be heard except the chattering noise of the dabchicks chasing each other through the rushes, or the clucking call of the moor-hen to collect her newly hatched brood, as they emerge occasionally from the shelter which the sedge affords them, or perhaps,

"Stock doves and turtles tell their amorous pain,  
And from the lofty elms of love complain."

The perfume, too, of a neighbouring field of beans, wafted on the last faint expiring efforts of the breeze, adds not a little to render the fisherman satisfied with his situation. It is extraordinary how suddenly the exertions of the fly-fisher are called into action at this period of the evening; for although he watches for some time without seeing a fish move, at a signal, as it were, the river becomes alive, and no time is to be lost. The reason is obvious, for it is with the insect, as with the other branches of the animal creation, that some are abroad during the night and others by day. When the dusk of the evening commences, moths and flies of that description begin to rouse from the state of rest in which they generally remain during the day, and a trout, although he has made a substantial dinner on the Mayfly, will not refuse the luxury of the different moths and smaller night flies which invite him to a light supper. This rise lasts for an hour or more, according as the evening is favourable or otherwise; and it frequently becomes at last so dark as scarcely to allow the fisherman the opportunity of seeing a fish rise, though he judges by his ear from whence the sound proceeds. Many a hook becomes fixed in the rushes of the opposite bank and the rod falls a sacrifice to the attempts to disengage it—a man fancies himself the last in the field, thinking that no person is near him save his attendant squire, when suddenly—

"He hears the sound of words, their sense the air  
Dissolves unjointed, ere it reach his ear,"



"SCARCELY A SOUND TO BE HEARD, EXCEPT  
THE CHATTERING NOISE OF THE BARNDOCKS"  
P. 100.



196 THE HOUGHTON FISHING CLUB

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After this a noise in the reeds was made, and we branched off in different directions for the rise of fish at sunset. Waiting for the moment to arrive when the sport begins in a warm still evening, each fisherman takes his station with eyes directed to the most likely spots. Scarcely a sound to be heard except the chattering noise of the dabchicks chasing each other through the rushes, or the clucking call of the moor-hen to collect her newly hatched brood, as they emerge occasionally from the shelter which the sedge affords them, or perhaps,

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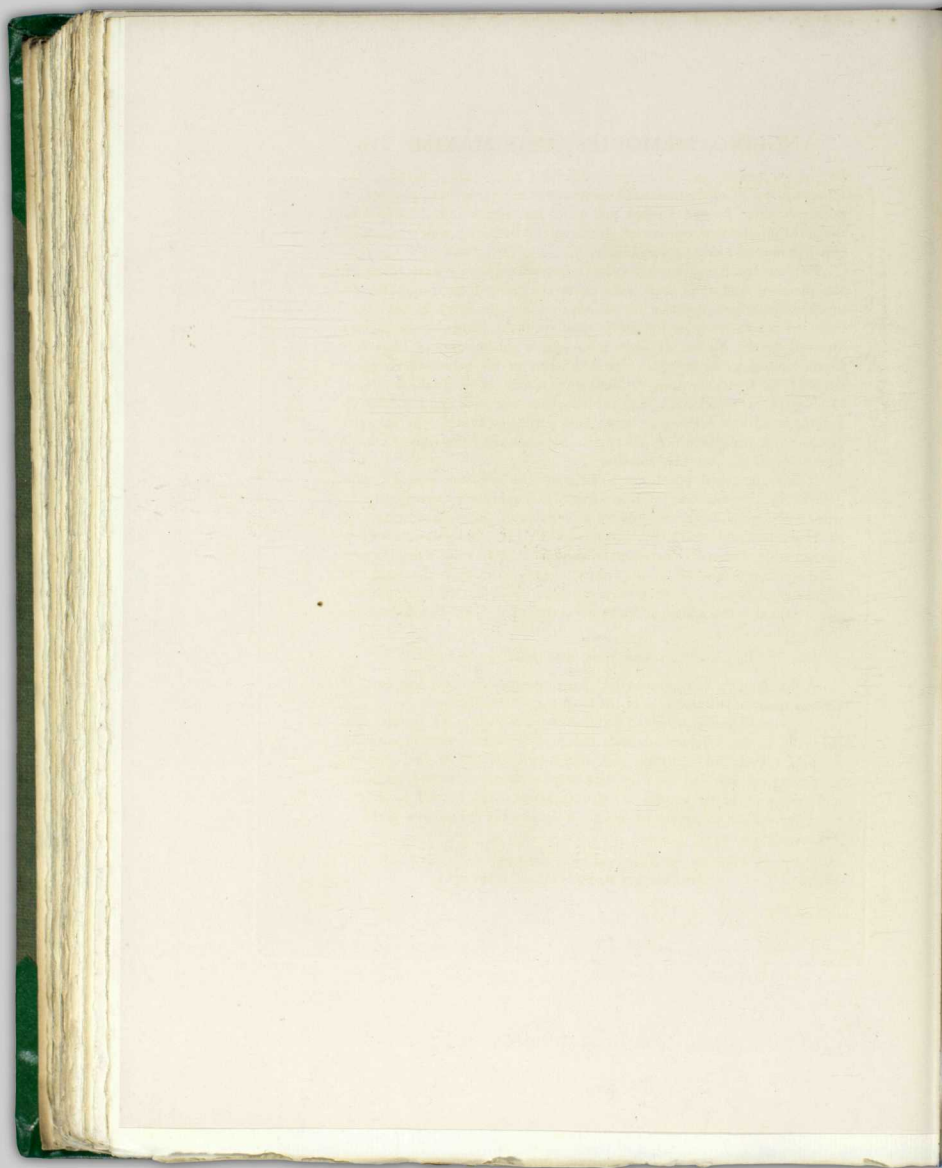
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"He hears the sound of words, their sense the air  
Dissolves unjoined, ere it reach his ear,"





"SCARCELY A SOUND TO BE HEARD, EXCEPT  
THE CHATTERING NOISE OF THE DASHCHICKS."  
P. 198.



## ANGLING MEMORIES AND MAXIMS 197

but he gathers enough from the suddenness and *peculiar energy of the ejaculations* to conclude that some unfortunate companion has just lost a good fish which he had hooked, and which had struck into the weeds in the most unceremonious manner, declining the invitation which had been given to him of a ride to Stockbridge.

But the sport is over. A sociable, large enough to contain most of the members and their men, soon takes the party from Houghton to Stockbridge, where the fish are all weighed and displayed in the club-room on boards provided for the purpose, with the names of the captors attached to the victims of their skill. Here the mysterious large fish shows himself to advantage. The brightness of his belly—the crimson tinge of his spots, the deep but clear olive colour of his back, the depth of his girth, his small head, with the shoulders and back arching from it, and the breadth of his tail, show the high perfection to which he has been fed, and the strength which was only to be subdued by the Master's hand who bears off the laurel for the day.

If any additional proof was wanting of the enviable state of mind enjoyed by the members of this society, it would only be necessary to witness the playfulness and hilarity of mind which even the members of riper years exhibit when they meet together. All restraint and care is thrown aside, and every one seems to consider that he holds a dispensation for the period of his holiday to practise a pious fraud upon the debit side of his *annual account*; to shut his eyes to the conviction of his grey hairs and wrinkled front, and to adopt as his motto what Lord Byron sanctions by his eulogy—

“Oh, happy years, once more, who would not be a boy?”

A few sketches of character and of occurrences that have happened at various times to the members of the Club may be interesting.

A reverend divine, who had only taken up fishing on his election into the Club in his fifty-second year, occupied his first season in catching nothing. Trout and grayling with him were quite out of the question, for during the first year even the dace despised him. A second year gave him hopes of better success in ensuing seasons, for he did catch one trout, but in his eagerness to kill it he forgot the injunctions given in Thomson's *Seasons*—

“If yet too young and easily deceived,  
A worthless prey scarce bends the pliant rod,

Him, piteous of his Youth, and the short space  
 He has enjoyed the vital light of Heaven,  
 Soft disengage, and back into the stream  
 The speckled captive throw."

And thus he overlooked one important rule in the regulations of the Club, viz. that a fine of five shillings (bottle of champagne) was incurred for any fish killed under a pound weight. The scale gave a verdict of only 14 ounces, and the payment of the five shillings completed his sport for the second year.

Nothing daunted, he returned a third year to the charge, having brought a travelling library of fishing books, a forest of rods, and swarms of flies, which were all duly displayed and their merits canvassed on his arrival. He began to talk learnedly, and he looked more like *the man to catch 'em*. At last he hooked a fish and found a 2 lb. trout had accepted his challenge. His attendant, who had been daily hoaxed by the keepers and other attendants upon his master's never catching a fish, and whose temper was almost exhausted by the jeers that he had to encounter, was so anxious to make a prize of the trout that the moment a favourable opportunity presented itself he caught up the fish in the landing net, and, jumping with delight, turned round to his master. What was his astonishment to hear the following peremptory injunction: "Put him in again, put him in again; what are you about? I have not half played him yet; put him in, I say." The reluctant loiterer obeyed, and the fish, darting under the weeds in the middle, borrowed the greater part of the tackle of the reverend gentleman, and went off to warn his brethren against the deceit prepared for them; but not without doing full justice to the act of mercy which had caused his escape.

Strange as it may appear, however, one more fact of his sport in this year ought, in justice to his memory, to be recorded, viz. the average of the fish caught by him in the season exceeded that of any other member—but the solution of this mystery consists in his catching only one fish, which was two ounces heavier than the average weight of all the fish caught by any of the others in the year.

From the capture of this solitary fish the spirits of the actors in the performance were immediately elated, and the reverend divine and his humble but faithful friend Moses exchanged congratulatory glances at each other, not a little pleased to see two fellow sportsmen approaching, merely, as Moses rightly anticipated, with the intention of asking what sport and



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of witnessing the daily shake of the head in reply to similar questions. Moses, however, looked uncommonly sly, and the vicar smiled an *Io triumphe!* but said nothing.

"Why, Moses, what's the use of that grass sticking out of the basket? you know you haven't got a fish there."

"Now be hanged if that an't too bad. You only comes to quiz, because you two be jealous of the happiness of we. Lookye here now! Have you got ar'n like it?"

An awkward question, but the mortification arising from the confession of empty panniers was more than balanced by the gratification exhibited in the countenances of the fortunate pair.

The next hero of this piscatorial coterie had been so much occupied by official business in London that, during the two first seasons, he never made his appearance. As the habits of his official life had not allowed him much opportunity to study the arcana of the art, his *début* in the field was anxiously looked for by those of his friends who were already assembled. A letter at last announced his intended arrival by the coach that day, and as the fishing party were just sitting down to dinner in their tent by the river-side, a stranger was announced by the servant to be hastening with rapid strides, under evident alarm of being too late for dinner. His whole exterior was silently surveyed by the assembled group, and some speculations were hazarded that a light-coloured straw hat, clear white trousers, a new buff waistcoat and a fustian jacket of the newest London cut did not hold out much promise of filling the pannier with fish, and that the Londoner had rather calculated on dry gravel walks by the water-side than on the uncertain and treacherous footing of the bank in most parts of the valley.

"How are you? Better late than never," was the general exclamation.

"I was afraid I should be too late for dinner," was the reply, "but I see you are not dressed yet; now, take my advice, and do it immediately, for you are wet up to your middle. How did you contrive to tumble in?"

"My dear fellow, I have not tumbled in; this is only what I have collected in the course of my walk this morning, and dinner's quite ready; we never dress here."

He looked down at his own white trousers when I asked him whether he meant to fish in the evening; and at dinner he could not help crowing over the rest of the party from the comfort he found in his dry clothes, and said that, though he intended to fish after dinner, he should not have



200 THE HOUGHTON FISHING CLUB

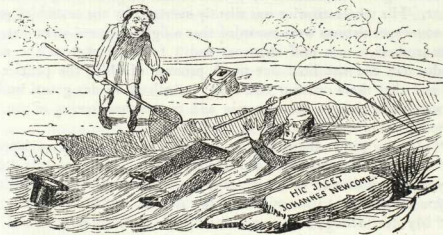
the trouble of dressing again before he went to bed. Dinner was soon disposed of.

"This board no strange ambiguous viands bore,  
From their own streams their choicer fare they drew ;  
To lure the scaly glutton to the shore,  
The sole deceit their artless bosoms knew."

My tyro started to begin his sport. Two hours afterwards, turning round a corner by a coppice, the figure apparently of the same person was observed, but the dress totally different. Dark cloth trousers, black waistcoat and black velvet jacket supplied the place of the smart dress of the dinner, and the common straw hat had been laid aside for one of Bicknell's best—London Particular.

"This, this is he ! softly awhile,  
Let us not break in upon him !  
O change beyond report, thought or belief."

Anxious to learn the cause of this magical transformation, and perceiving that the tackle was then, only for the first time, put together—I



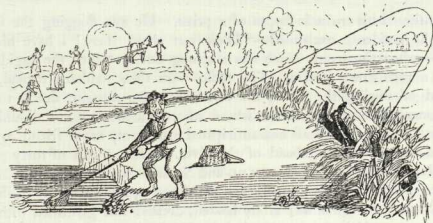
approached my friend, when the uplifted hands and the hearty uncontrolled laughter from the untutored rustic who had been hired to carry the basket and landing net gave strong presumptive proof that some catastrophe had occurred. True enough, indeed ; for a miscalculation of the slippery bank of a ditch in a meadow, through which the water had

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been turned for early grass, had placed my London friend on his back in the middle of it, and, to use his own words, "The water ran in at the collar of my coat and out at the bottom of my trousers," and his first recollection on recovering his senses was the sight of his straw hat floating gently down the stream about twenty yards off, which was the only thing he landed that day; though he afterwards distinguished himself in the annual returns of killed.

My friend the artist added not a little to the mirth of the party by the following incident. Some unusual bustle had been observed to take place at a distance between his man and himself, and an interval of an hour elapsed before he quitted the station where he was first noticed. At last, with slow pace he approached the tent, having been obliged to hoist his dripping kerseymers on the handle of his landing net as a signal of distress; for a deep hole in the bank, sufficiently large to accommodate both legs, but allowing him to rest upon his hips, had received him *pube tenus* in black mud and water.

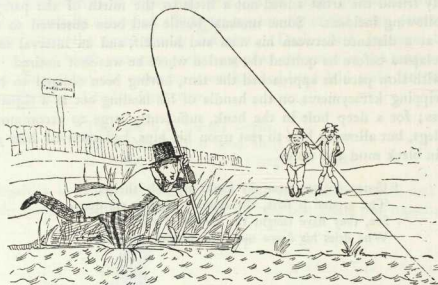
"Graze not too near the bank, my jolly sheep;  
The ground is false, the running streams are deep;  
See, they have caught the Father of the Flock,  
Who dries his fleece upon the neighbouring rock."



My own exhibition must not be omitted. Having hooked a good fish and wishing to draw him quickly to my side of the river, I directed my progress by a sudden retrograde motion incautiously towards a running

ditch of some depth, and the splash occasioned by my fall just gave my man sufficient notice to see my legs uppermost above the rushes, and to form his own conclusions as to the comfortable position of my head and body.

A naval captain, much attached to fly fishing, on his first appearance at Stockbridge worked with the most praiseworthy perseverance for some hours without sport—with the characteristic energy, however, of his profession,

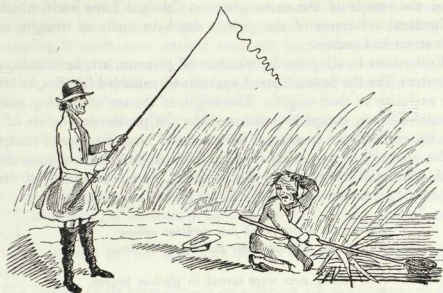


he continued his cruise in hopes of a prize. He was flogging the water when he suddenly exclaimed—"Look out ahead there! I have him in tow"—when the trout, which was a strong one, got into the rapid and made a rush down stream. The tables were then suddenly turned, and instead of towing the trout, the fish towed the captain, much to the amusement of the by-standers, whose entertainment was not diminished by a catastrophe, which all had anticipated except my naval friend, arising from a boggy projecting bend of the river. After a run of forty yards, he fell on his back with his arms up and his legs bent, exhibiting a living picture of Moses in the bulrushes. He deserves, however, that it should be recorded, the trout was safely landed, dressed and garnished with the water-cresses which clung to the jacket of the captor.

One of the party, a staunch Reformer, had hooked a large trout, which he played for a short time, when a desperate struggle broke the tackle just as the man attempted to land him. The man, a worthy and

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independent elector of Stockbridge, having the fear of Schedule A present to his imagination, looked up, and scratching his head, exclaimed, "It's a bad job, but it's all over; and I'll be hanged if he ha'n't disfranchised your tackle outright."



It is very entertaining to hear the merits of the different tackle belonging to each member of this Club discussed, to witness the eagerness with which all listen to the observations made, and the readiness with which they produce in a few minutes their fly books on the table. A friend of mine, who had been employed in the rebellion in Ireland in 1798, once told me that, when in Dublin at that time, he dined at the table of the Lord Lieutenant, and after dinner one of the party, speaking of the merits of his pistols, produced them from his pocket, and placed them on the table; for it was necessary in the state of the country for every person to carry arms with him. In the course of ten minutes afterwards, as many pairs of pistols as the number of guests present were exhibited. Now the fisherman always being armed to the teeth with tackle, a similar rivalry ensues whenever the subject is mentioned. Human ingenuity and invention have so improved all sorts of tackle in the present age, that the clumsy devices of the New Zealander or the American savage are looked at with surprise, and even incredulity; although it is probable that the first attempts of our ancestors at the manufacture of hooks and lines would only



now be saleable to enrich the cabinet of the antiquary, and not invite a customer in the modern emporium of Crooked Lane. It would be as difficult to make many men believe that it was possible to have caught fish by such contrivances, as it will be to the future inhabitants of the City to divine the reason of the name given to Crooked Lane itself, which the architectural reformers of the present day have made as straight as any other street in London.

Enthusiasts in all pursuits, whether of pleasure, art, or science, pride themselves, like the descendants of ancient and ennobled families, in tracing their antiquity or their origin. The origin of the art of angling must be difficult to trace, except by inference that the predaceous habits of man from the earliest ages would not have suffered him, if even not compelled by the necessity of procuring food, to have omitted the opportunity of exerting his skill, or gratifying his curiosity, by the invention of various methods of capturing fish. Virgil in his First Georgic says—

*Atque alius latum fundū jam verkerat amnem  
Alia petens, pelagoque alius trahit humida lina.*

“And casting nets were spread in shallow brooks,  
Drags in the deep, and baits were hung on hooks.”

Horace in his *Satires* gives the best advice to anglers; who must, before they are worthy to assume the name, learn never to despond, nor pettishly relinquish their object, because they meet with difficulty and disappointment.

*Nec, si vafer unus et alter  
Insidiatorem præceps fugerit hamis,  
Aut ipem deponas, aut artem illius omittas.*

But for its antiquity let the Great Father, Isaak Walton, speak for himself.

“Some say it is as ancient as Deucalion's Flood; others that Belus, who was the first inventor of godly and virtuous recreations, was the first inventor of angling, and some others say (for former times have had their disquisitions about the antiquity of it) that Seth, one of the sons of Adam, taught it to his sons, and that by them it was derived to posterity; others say that he left it engraven on those pillars that he erected, and trusted to preserve the knowledge of the mathematics, music, and the rest of that



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precious knowledge, and those useful arts, which by God's appointment or allowance, and his noble industry, were thereby preserved from perishing in Noah's ark.

"These have been the opinions of several men that have possibly endeavoured to make angling more ancient than is needful, or may well be warranted: but for my part, I shall content myself with telling you, that angling is much more ancient than the Incarnation of our Saviour; for in the Prophet Amos mention is made of fish-hooks—

"Lo, the days shall come upon you that he shall take you away with Hooks, and your Posterity with Fish-hooks."

"And in the book of Job (which was long before the days of Amos, for that book is said to have been written by Moses) mention is made also of fish-hooks, which must imply anglers in those times—

"Canst thou draw out leviathan with an hook? or his tongue with a cord which thou lettest down?

"Canst thou put an hook in his nose, or bore his jaws through with a thorn?

"Canst thou fill his skin with barbed irons or his head with fish spears?"

But enough of its antiquity—it is sufficient for my purpose to record the pleasure I have myself experienced, to point out to others how similar advantages are to be obtained, and to vindicate the pursuit from the contemptuous sneers of many who despise it. I will say to them—

"Oh come, and, rich in intellectual wealth,  
Blend thought with exercise, with knowledge, health."

I will tell them that there is among anglers a sort of Freemasonry that is captivating; more so, I think, than among the followers of any other sport. There is something in the shake of the hand of an honest piscator (I do not now allude to the cobbler's wax), that is hearty and conciliatory. All anglers are good fellows; even those who despise the art admit that they are a harmless race of men.

Paley remarks in his *Natural Theology*—"I have been a great follower of Fishing myself, and in its cheerful solitude have passed some of the happiest hours of a sufficiently happy life." I do not know an unhappy angler; and a patient man he must be, as patience is a virtue especially enjoined, and experience proves that it is essential to his success. It is not uncommon for the reasoning mind to reap from trifling circumstances

the advantages which, by proper reflection, may apply to matters of higher importance to our happiness; and by an easy transition from the petty annoyance, which the temporary vexations in fishing occasion, to the more serious misfortunes which occasionally embitter our progress through life, we may beneficially to ourselves take advantage of the salutary advice given by Horace—

*Duram, sed levius fit patientia  
Quicquid corrigere est nefas.*

"'Tis hard, but patience must endure  
And soothe the woes it cannot cure."

Let the sceptic of these pleasures look at the spirited and beautiful picture of the enthusiast by Theodore Lane. See "how the ruling passion strong in death" reconciled the patient to the otherwise irksome confinement of the chamber of sickness—observe the regular display of tackle in the narrow limits of the room, as though the ample range of acres had been enjoyed, and the satisfaction of the countenance that seems to say—

"Give all thou canst and let me dream the rest."

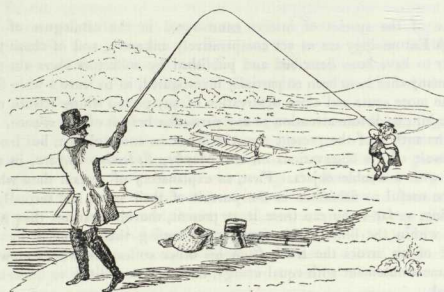
Nor is this picture overdrawn, although it was in this instance merely the effort of the lively imagination of the painter. Let those who doubt the probability of such a scene view this sketch from nature. See an invalid suffering from the monitory twitch, which warns him of approaching gout. Inclination beckons him to the river-side, but prudence tells him to remain in bed—and there he is—but by what magical illusion does he beguile his senses so as to forget his situation and his pain by the semblance of health and reality? He examines the box that contains his rods to see that the joints of each are nicely fitted, and the rings all in their places; he puts on the reel and tries the line, to see how it suits the pliancy of the rod; he adjusts his flies; he arranges his books and examines the state of the supplies which his pannier contains, so that he may be ready on the shortest notice for active service.

I have known men of the highest attainments fly to the relief thus within their reach; and, when the mind has been borne down by illness or overstrained in the more abstruse researches which their scientific pursuits have entailed upon them, seek to renew the calmness of their thoughts and to restore the wonted elasticity of their minds by the pleasure which

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the contrivance or arrangement of their fishing tackle has afforded them, and which, by their own admission, has been at all times an effectual remedy. Who then will question the efficacy of such a resource, or ridicule the Art as trifling and contemptible, when it has been followed, advocated, and sanctioned by the example of a Wollaston and a Davy?

*Vive ; vale ! Si quid novisti rectius istis,  
Candidus imperti ; si non, his utere mecum.*



## CHAPTER II

"Thus, if what the industry of others shall in future times discover in this way be added to these observations, it is to be hoped that a common stock may thence grow, and come to be of some importance."—I. J. BIBERG, *Amanitates Academicæ*, vol. II.

MANY of the species of insects enumerated in the catalogues of our British Entomology are as yet comparatively unknown, and of those that appear to have been described and published by collectors there are still very many that have been so partially investigated, as to leave a wide field for the more acute and close observation of any person whose leisure may enable him to devote attention to any particular branch of the science.

The author of the present remarks is not an entomologist, but inserts the result of his observations on the Mayfly, *Ephemera vulgata*, in this book, with a double object. First, as explanatory of certain data which may be useful to fishermen in the pursuit of their sport, and secondly as detailing, so far as he can trace it at present, the observations that have come within the limit of his experience; hoping thus to elicit by the record of his errors the truth from his other colleagues who, following the same amusement with equal energy, have better abilities to undertake the task.

It is impossible for the fisherman not to admire the insect itself and to be astonished at the changes which it undergoes during the period at which it is useful for his immediate purpose of sport; and it is equally impossible not to desire further information as to its habits and progress from the time it is first deposited as an egg upon the water to that at which he seeks for it as a bait for his hook.

An inquirer into this subject anxious for information would first have recourse to his brother angler, but I fear the little information he would thus obtain would lead him to the entomologist for the solution of his difficulty. He would be fortunate if he found among the latter class any one capable of throwing additional light upon the subject, and his reference to most authors would be equally unsatisfactory—he would learn that entomology is so extensive as not to admit of the study of the habits



of the species of all the different genera and that the simple description of genera and certain species would be all that he could gather from their publications—he would ultimately come to the resolution that his own exertions must chiefly furnish the data upon which he can with confidence rely to check the unsatisfactory conclusions at which others have arrived; of some who advocate a particular theory, but of many more who slur over that part of the subject which they have not thoroughly investigated without honestly confessing that they are wholly ignorant of the details.<sup>1</sup>

I shall commence my remarks from the time at which the angler looks out for the appearance of *THE FLY* as it is distinguished *par excellence* from all others—and follow it as far as I can from my own observation and the information I have been able to collect from the works of Kirby and Spence and others, during the long interval of its concealment under the water, in which it remains for the rest of the year, with the exception of the few days allotted to its perfect state.

The period at which the fly makes its appearance in each year is guided entirely by temperature, inasmuch as that temperature which regulates the annual development of vegetable productions is equally the governing principle in fixing the period of entomological existence, and I ground this supposition upon the fact that as numerous families of insects feed principally on particular plants it would not accord with the wise but invariable dispensation of Providence that animal nature should be subject to any different law that might deprive it of the means of support. It may be urged by some that the Mayfly does not feed at all in its perfect state: this I contend would not subvert my position; I ground my argument on the *general* principle.

In his *Insect Transformations* Mr. Rennie supplies the following corroboration from the result of his experience and his reference to other authors.

“The period at which the eggs of insects are hatched after deposition depends mainly upon temperature; for by keeping them in an ice house

<sup>1</sup> The Dutch entomologist Swammerdam published the result of his study of the *Ephemera* in 1675. He ruined his eyesight by intense study with the microscope, and, after ten years of useful labour, abandoned science for controversial theology. Reaumur relied greatly on Swammerdam's observations (vol. vi., *mémoire* 12), and Pictet, Vayssiére, and De Geer have all made contributions to the life-history of the Mayfly. The most convenient treatises on the subject for the modern angler are contained in Miall's *Natural History of Aquatic Insects* (1895), Halford's *Dry-fly Fishing* (1889), and *The Cambridge Natural History*, vol. v. (1895).—ED.

in summer, the hatching may be retarded, as it may be hastened by heat in winter; but there are many other circumstances unknown to us which often hasten or retard the process. The eggs of the blow-fly (*Musca vomitoria*) are said to hatch within two hours; while those of several moths and numerous other insects, remain unhatched for six or nine months; perhaps in some cases for one or more years. It is worthy of remark, however, that the periods of hatching correspond in a striking manner with the leafing of trees, and the appearance of other materials fitted for the food of the young. We observed a good example of this in the spring of 1829. A lackey moth had deposited during autumn a spiral ring of her eggs on the branch of a sweet briar planted in a garden pot out of doors. We removed this into our study during the winter. Here the warmth caused the tree to bud, and at the same time hatched the lackeys about a month sooner than those out of doors. Owing to the same cause, several colonies of the caterpillars of the brown tail moth revived from their torpidity, and came forth from their winter nests before the hawthorns were in leaf, a circumstance which would not have happened to them out of doors."<sup>1</sup> Kirby and Spence give an instance precisely similar of the eggs of an aphid found on the birch and hatched indoors a full month before those in the open air.<sup>2</sup>

If any fisherman will take the trouble to record his observations annually in the same river he will find a great variation in a series of years. He will find that the first appearance is nearest to the sea—and that it daily and gradually approaches nearer to the spring heads. He will find also that great variation exists in different rivers running nearly through the same district, and that in one the Mayfly will be over before that of the parallel stream begins. In the Hampshire rivers the rise of the fly at Stoneham on the Itchen and at Bossington on the Test is generally on the same day; but the rise at Ringwood on the Avon is nearly over before that in the two first-mentioned rivers begins. Again on the Colne, the fly at Denham precedes the rise in the Itchen and Test but a few days, whereas the rise does not begin on the Kennett at Hungerford until it is finished in the Hampshire rivers. An attentive observer will find out in every place, however limited, particular shallows in the river, or particular drains or carriers running from it, in which the fly appears earlier by two or three days than in the water generally; and this arises in some degree

<sup>1</sup> Rennie's *Insect Transformations*, p. 126.

<sup>2</sup> Kirby and Spence, *Introduction*, ii. 434.

from the nature of the soil and the depth of the water in particular spots or its neighbourhood to springs. It is impossible to prove this by any fact more convincing than that which the valley at Stockbridge exhibits. A canal supplied by the water from the river, runs in many places within a few yards of the stream. The fly, however (acted upon by the comparative warmth of the water of the canal from not being exposed to the colder influence of the springs of the river) is matured earlier, and is generally ten days or a fortnight more forward than in the river which runs by its side. And in a stream called Black Lake in the same district, which is supplied by springs, the fly is generally three days later than the branches of many parts of the main river which runs on each side of it. Before the general rise of fly takes place in the river, a few straggling flies are seen in the warm ditches and in sheltered places, but these are principally small, and chiefly males. At the beginning of the fly the proportion of males is much greater than towards the end, for reasons that will hereafter appear. The duration of the season varies according to the nature of the weather—exactly as the duration of particular flowers or the ripening of a crop of fruit also varies. If by cold unfavourable winds the fly is retarded some days after that of its usual appearance and a favourable day then occurs, the quantity of such a day would probably have furnished the average supply of the preceding days if cold had not prevented it; but in this case its duration will be more limited. If the weather is neither very hot nor very cold there will be good fishing for nearly three weeks; if it is very hot ten days will be the utmost.

One word here upon the subject of locality; for there is a degree of uncertainty of finding this insect in all places even in the same district. In Hampshire it is not only plentiful in the Test and other rivers generally, but I am assured upon good authority that many of the ponds on the downs at a considerable distance from the Test have plenty of this fly. The ponds also at Hampstead belonging to the Earl of Mansfield produce it in abundance.

In Kent the two parallel streams of the Cray and the Darent, although apparently of similar character throughout their course and in some places not four miles apart, exhibit an extraordinary difference in this respect. In the Darent there is plenty of the Mayfly at the usual season; in the Cray the fly is found, but it is produced very sparingly, and in other respects is remarkable, for I have observed straggling flies as early as the first week in May and as late as the middle of August; yet I have never



seen more than three in any one day in the year, although I had the opportunity of watching the stream from a residence on its banks, for seventeen years.

It is never a very good fishing season unless the fly comes on gradually about the usual time. If any check of cold or sudden excitement of heat takes place it is generally unfavourable to the fisherman. When the season is delayed by cold, the fish are looking out for the grub, and feed upon it under water; and, having thus glutted themselves, do not care to take it on the surface in its perfect state. If a great quantity appears in one day, and the fish rise eagerly, they are frequently satiated at once; but if it comes on gradually, only a few fish rise at first, and each day brings fresh fish to the surface in search of food. If the morning is warm, the fly generally rises between one and two o'clock, particularly after a warm shower, and continues until five or later; but if it is not warm or very hot, the rise does not take place until three or four o'clock and sometimes it is even delayed to five. When this is the case the sport is never so good. If a great rise of fly takes place in one day, it is very rarely that much, if any, appears on the succeeding day; and after a day without any fly it may generally be expected earlier on the day following. As the object of the fisherman is to take advantage of the moment at which the fly rises, there are two observations which I have made, which may be useful to him. First—that previous to the rise on the rivers, he will find the flies in his basket become very lively and strenuous in their attempts to get away—but if, upon opening the basket, he finds them dull and stationary, he may rest satisfied that those in the river are equally so. Second—if the male fly leaves its position on the grass or sedge, and begins to swarm in the air about the river with those beautiful light and airy movements which must be familiar to every one who has seen them, the general rise from the river may be shortly expected; for the males take their station to watch for the females, and, pursuing them in the air, by almost momentary contact secure the fulfilment of one of the most important laws of Nature, namely, that of reproduction. It is with reference to this last observation that I stated that the proportion of males was greater at the beginning of the season than towards the end: for the females would perish without having accomplished their object, unless the males which had risen two days previously had assumed their perfect state, in which only they rise into the air for the purpose before mentioned.

In *Insect Transformations*, p. 127, I find the following passage:—



"It is a remarkable circumstance, long observed by collectors, that the male broods of insects appear earlier than the female broods; and it would appear from the following fact that there is a similar retardation in the hatching of female eggs. Upon the leaf of a poplar tree were found three eggs of the puss moth (*Cerura vinula*), two of which were hatched about two weeks before the other. The first were males, the last a female. As they were on the same leaf, and presumed therefore to have been laid by the same parent at the same time, the difference of hatching could not have arisen from difference of weather exposure, &c."

If the fisherman will keep his mind alive to the hints with which Nature herself will furnish him, he may remark another circumstance as a guide to his movements to the river side at the precise period when any flies appear during the day upon the water. Suppose him in a situation where he is unwilling to leave his study except for the two or three hours that the fly appears. If he then observes the swallows quitting by degrees the higher regions of the air and becoming more numerous on the surface of the water, with a rapid skimming flight and occasional dipping to the stream itself, he may be certain that a further attention to the object of his sedentary occupation in the house will interfere with his prospect of sport for that day on the river, to which, therefore, he must immediately repair.

The fishermen at Stockbridge frequently say when the fly does not come in quantity that there will be no great rise of it until rain falls; which, they state, always causes it to rise freely. This, I conceive, depends on circumstances; for if heavy rain falls from a cold quarter, it lowers the temperature of the water, which would check the rise of the fly. If, on the contrary, thunder-showers fall, it may accelerate the rise; for it is remarked by entomologists that when the atmosphere is affected by thunder, it particularly excites insects. It is only, therefore, in the latter case that the observation would be correct.

What an opportunity is afforded to those who have sufficient leisure for following up the sport of Mayfly fishing, for enjoying it during a period much beyond what might appear credible. Suppose an enthusiast to begin on the Avon in Hampshire and fish up gradually to Fordingbridge, he may then seek the Itchen and the Test, and, having witnessed the end of the fly in those rivers, he will be in time for the Kennett at Hungerford. This would in many seasons give him five weeks, when he might travel towards Derbyshire and find the fly at Bakewell the end of

June; then, continuing onwards until he reached Keswick, where the third week in July would show him the fly at its height; whence he might fish his way to the north of Scotland, to be cheered again the third week in July by its appearance and the fish as eager for it as in the southern streams. Thus a period of three months will reward the patience of those who have frequently lamented that the limit put by Nature to the rise of the fly on the spot where they usually enjoy the sport, is so short and dependent upon the chance of favourable weather during the time of its rise.

It is extraordinary that the Mayfly has been so little noticed in the north. I have heard some fishermen assert that it is unknown north of the Trent; and others, though they admit its appearance on some of the lakes, deny that it exists in Scotland. This, however, is proved to be erroneous; for Captain Yorke this last season made it an object, at my request, to solve this difficulty, and the following extract of a letter dated Castle Leod, 19th July 1832, puts the matter beyond doubt.

"I have not been able to find that the Mayfly was known by any class of persons in this country; but this day has set the question at rest as to its existence, for I enclose two in my letter. I was fishing alone at Achelty, near this place, and saw one rise, and a fish instantly devoured it. I looked immediately along shore among the stones and soon found those I send to you. The Scotch are quite surprised at my discovery."

It is also surprising that so many of the Scotch fishermen should deny its existence in their rivers, as in the *Northern Memoirs*, written by Richard Franck in 1658, he speaks of the green and grey drake. It is also mentioned in the *North Country Angler*, although, from the description of it, great ignorance of its habits is evident, and it is confounded with various *Phryganea*—as the author of the latter work calls the Stone Fly (*Phryganea grandis*) the Mayfly, and does not know the *Ephemera vulgata* by the name which denotes it in the southern rivers. Spence and Kirby speak of *Sialis niger* or *Semblis lutaria* of some authors as the true Mayfly. Caution must therefore be used in reference to some of the works on entomology, as well as on fishing, to ascertain to what insect the word Mayfly is applied.<sup>1</sup>

The life of *Ephemera vulgata*, in its fly state, is generally about four

<sup>1</sup> The true Mayfly undoubtedly exists in many Scottish waters, although I have never happened to see more than a few scattered individuals. The insect known as the Mayfly on Tweedside and the Borders is the Stone-fly (*Pteronarcys bipunctata*), of the family *Pteronarcyidae*.—ED.

days. The insect which appears on one day remains nearly in the same state until the afternoon of the day following; it then assumes a darker and more dusky appearance, which gradually increases until the third day, when it becomes torpid and has almost the appearance of being dead. In this state the skin begins to burst about the shoulders, after which the head and base of the wings of the perfect insect are gradually extricated from the case which confines them; and at last, as the insect clings to the grass or post, the case is drawn from the legs and body, remaining so complete as to preserve the covering even of those three long and minutely jointed whisks of the tail. The whisks are longer in this than in any previous state, where the use of them is not so material to the object for which they are intended—viz. that of assisting the insect in its flight and enabling it to make those volts in the air and sudden movements which the male resorts to when he is in quest of the female, and of which she has equally recourse to when she deposits her eggs on the water. It is on the fourth day, generally towards the afternoon, that the female returns to the water and there, by constantly dipping in her flight over the stream, she successively commits a cluster of eggs to their natural element until her strength is quite exhausted, and she dies in her efforts to rise again. After the change which takes place on the third day, the wings become beautifully transparent and the body is much more white, with the black bars in it more distinct. The females are plump and full of eggs; whereas the bodies of the males seem to contain little else but air, and crack with a noise similar to that which bladders of the same size would make upon the pressure of the thumb and finger; whence the male in this stage is called at Stockbridge the wind gnat. It is in this state that the fly has been mistaken by most naturalists, and is still supposed by many fishermen to be a different species.

The names green and grey drake originated in the mode of dressing the artificial flies—where the grey feathers of a mallard form the wings of the fly in its last state, and the same feathers dyed of a greenish yellow supply the material for the wings of this *Ephemera* for the first twenty-four hours of its appearance. When it has undergone the last change, the fishermen distinguish it by the term of "burnt fly," and "spent," or "cast gnat."

All books on fishing speak of the green and the grey drake as two distinct flies; and in some of the works on entomology they are described as such: which I have shown are only the same insect in a different state.



That the authors of the older fishing books should have made the blunder of considering the green and grey drake as two distinct flies, and that fishermen in general, if they do not investigate facts, should be still deceived by common appearances is not so surprising; but that the philosophical author of *Salmonia*<sup>1</sup> should in the year 1828 have been led into a repetition of these errors, and in his book on fishing (where elucidation of doubts might be expected) should have been accessory to this confusion respecting the Mayfly is most extraordinary; and this calls me (unwillingly, I acknowledge, from a sense of my own inferiority to so great a name) to point out several passages in the same work not signalised by that accuracy of observation which might have been expected from such high authority.

At page 22 he says: "There are, I observe, some male flies upon the high trees and some females on the alders." Now in general the Mayfly does not seek the high trees or alders, but settles on the grass, sedge or low bushes by the river side; although a portion may be driven in stress of weather or by high winds to situations which are rather a matter of necessity than choice. The principal object of the insect after its rise from the water is to seek the nearest asylum of perfect repose for the next forty-eight hours.

Again, page 23, he says: "The green drake is *descending* upon the water, and some are leaving the alders to sport in the sunshine." Now the *green* drake does not descend upon the water. In the state of its green, or rather yellowish-green appearance, it ascends from the water; and at the expiration of at least forty-eight hours from its first ride, it shifts its skin and becomes grey, which has led to the confusion of the grey drake being a distinct species. In this last state, when it returns to the water to deposit the eggs, the female, and the female only, descends to the water; but Sir Humphry Davy, by the period of the day at which he fixes this observation, viz. before one o'clock, has overlooked the fact that it is only after the sun has passed the meridian some hours that this return takes place, being in general in warm weather from five to seven o'clock in the afternoon, and if the weather is not favourable, it does not even return to the water on that day, but waits till the following.

At page 93, while he is fishing *before breakfast*, he again observes the Mayfly descending upon the water in quantities. Now in the course of my experience I have not seen any but a few straggling Mayflies on the

<sup>1</sup> Sir Humphry Davy.



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water before twelve o'clock; most of which have been blown off the sedge by strong wind.

At page 249 he still speaks under the belief that the green and the grey drake are two different flies, for he remarks that they are both depositing their eggs. I cannot help regretting that in any remarks he recorded in a work on this subject he did not devote himself to closer observation, so that I might have reaped the benefit of the additional light which in that case he would have thrown upon a subject, of which the extent of our present information leads only to the remark of Pope—

"Tis but to know how little can be known,  
To see all other's faults, and feel our own."

Very little is known respecting the natural history of the *Ephemera* from the period at which the egg is deposited to that of its reappearance in the fly state. In forming any conclusion on a creature, the investigation of which is so difficult from the nature of the element in which it commences life, it is necessary to be particularly cautious in hazarding any opinion that might be likely to mislead future inquirers. It appears, however, probable that the eggs are borne down the stream by the current until the moisture acting upon the glutinous nature of their covering causes them to adhere to the weeds, where they remain until the warmth of the sun hatches them, and they commence the grub state in which they continue, increasing in size until they attain that in which I have observed them in November by digging up the sand and fine gravel on the shallows, quite as large with respect to the head, body and legs as the perfect fly—having also the rudiments of the fork at the tail. How the interval between June and November is filled up I have yet to discover, although I may possibly obtain a clue to this part of the inquiry by following up an observation I made some time since towards the end of July, when, on taking up a large rush which was growing in the middle of the stream and bending by the strength of the current to the surface of the water, I discovered the under side of it thickly studded with small cells, each of which contained a small grub much resembling in shape the future May-fly—many of the cells were empty and the animal had escaped, others were occupied and of different sizes. Whether these grubs belong to the *Ephemera* or *Phryganea* time must develop; but there is only one other species, viz. *Sialis niger*, which is in sufficient quantity to produce such

myriads of grubs as I observed, and the *Sialis niger* deposits its eggs on the sedge by the side of the river and on bushes and does not drop them in the water. It is probable that after the animal assumes the form of the grub, its growth is very rapid; as it is in this state that insects feed most voraciously, and the increase of the size probably corresponds with that of the different tribes of caterpillars which is familiar to the most superficial observer. The more difficult part of the question, which I am aware will require the strongest evidence before it would warrant any assertion being made, is how long the grub remains in that state, and whether the eggs of the one year produce the fly of the following season. I confess that my doubts on this subject are very strong—and I am further inclined to the belief that changes of weather and variation of temperature might so far affect the constitution of the grub itself as to make the quantity of fly which any one season might produce very uncertain. I know the strong opinion that prevails in the mind of a brother angler, whose opinions on all subjects are entitled to the highest respect, that a certain season is allotted to the reproduction of each class of animal life, and that if that season is unfavourable to the progress of vitality, during the change in the form which insects assume, that they perish altogether. There is much sound reasoning in this opinion, and it is grounded, I conclude, on the analogy of the eggs of birds and the spawn of fishes. But if I can refer to a fact where a moth was confined for the purpose of securing the eggs which she might deposit, and that the eggs so laid were kept in the same state and only hatched in small proportions annually for six seasons, who will be bold enough to assert that a similar uncertainty might not control the annual number of the insect birth of the *Ephemera*? If the argument against this theory is grounded upon the analogy above referred to, may I not fairly assume that the eggs of insects, from the fact above recorded, appear rather to bear an analogy to the seeds of some vegetables which retain the vital principle under particular circumstances to an extent to which it is difficult to put a limit; and, in proportion to the minuteness of the seeds themselves, this power of retaining the vital principle appears the strongest. The fact of the eggs of the moth above alluded to was communicated by Mr. Samonelle [?] of the British Museum. The experiment was tried with *Eriogaster lanestris*, which insect laid a number of eggs in a box, a portion of which were annually hatched in six successive seasons; and the remainder appeared to retain their vitality when the experiment was discontinued.

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Mr. Marsham, in vol. x. of *Linnean Transactions*, after giving an account of a species of *Buprestis* taken alive out of the wood of a desk which had been made above twenty years, and drawing attention to the inquiry as to the particular stage of existence in which this insect had remained for so long a period, gives an instance which occurred to his friend, Mr. William Jones of Chelsea.

"Mr. Jones, in one of his entomological excursions, took a female of *Phalana bombyx mendica* which laid a number of eggs that produced thirty-six caterpillars; all these fed, spun their cases, and went into the pupa state in a regular manner; but, at the proper season, only twelve came out in their perfect state; and as this was no uncommon circumstance, he concluded the rest were dead. To his great astonishment, however, the next season twelve more made their appearance, and the following year the remainder burst into life equally perfect with the foregoing. They all fed alike, spun up about the same time, were equally exposed to the same atmosphere of heat and cold, and yet the result was so widely different. How is this extraordinary fact to be accounted for except by the supposition that by the dispensation of Providence nothing once created shall be entirely lost; but that although a series of unfavourable seasons may succeed each other, so as to destroy the greatest part of many animals, yet a remnant shall remain to propagate and continue the species."

In confirmation of my supposition of the analogy between the eggs of insects and seeds I find at page 27 of *Insect Transformations*—

"The facts which we have thus stated with regard to the seeds of plants being diffused by the means of winged down or by the more remarkable capacity of being projected, differ, as we have shown, in some important circumstances from the nearly similar arrangement of nature in the economy of insects. They constitute affinities, but not analogies. On the other hand, the more universal law of the continuance of insect life by every new generation being hatched from eggs, may be illustrated by an analogy, which is allowed even in the most minute instances, in the generation of plants from seeds."

He also, after speaking of the difference which many pupæ have both from their larvæ and from the insects to be afterwards evolved from them, says—"Pupæ, as we formerly remarked, have as striking an analogy to the buds of plants, as eggs have to seeds."

Mr. Salisbury states in his book, entitled *Hints on Orchards*, that there are instances of butterflies depositing upon the branches of trees their eggs



which remained for several years without losing their vitality until a favourable opportunity of their being brought into existence arrived.

The principal objects therefore to which I am anxious to direct the attention of future investigators are, the eggs and the larvæ: with respect to the former—

- 1st. Whether the egg of one season produces the fly of the next; if not—
- 2nd. How long it can retain its principle of vitality in the egg state.
- 3rd. What concurrent causes call it into action as a larva.

With respect to the latter—

- 1st. Whether the larva becomes a fly in the following season after it is hatched.
- 2nd. If not—how long it remains in that state.
- 3rd. Whether its metamorphosis from the larva to the imago state is capable of being accelerated or retarded through successive seasons.
- 4th. What causes produce the effect.<sup>1</sup>

Here, brother anglers, is a field for amusement, when any interval of sport requires to be beguiled by a variety of occupation. Such intervals I have seen filled up by men of reason and intelligence, with strength of limb and active minds, clustering together in the most idle and listless manner on a bridge or on the grass for an hour or two at a time.

Up and begone! there's work to be done, I say.

Watch that female Mayfly. See how she raises herself in the air and then sinks to the water, poising her body with expanded wings and the *setæ* of her tail turned up, to place her eggs in their native element as I have above described. Pray, gentlemen, are these eggs deposited singly or in a cluster? I ask to satisfy my own ignorance on the subject; if you are equally uninformed I will state all I can obtain from different authors.

Swammerdam states that the eggs of *Ephemera* are smooth and oblong, a form which he proves to be admirably adapted for diffusing them through

<sup>1</sup> These questions remain unanswered to this day, the life-history of Mayflies having not yet been fully ascertained. But it is certain that the larval stage is prolonged beyond a single season, and it is believed to extend in some species over a period of three years.—Ed.



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the water. He tried the experiment of placing some on the point of a knife and dropping them gently, when they separated in a very curious manner.

I have alluded above to a suspicion that the eggs are carried down by the current of a river under the water, which, acting upon the glutinous nature of their coating, causes them to adhere to weeds, &c., where they



remain. When I made the memoranda from which the above observations are composed, I had no idea of the specific gravity of the eggs of insects, which is thus noticed in *Insect Transformations*, p. 15:—

“Another no less remarkable circumstance is the great weight, or specific gravity of the eggs of insects. From numerous experiments we may venture to say that those of all the species which we have tried sink rapidly in water the moment they are thrown into it, from the egg of the drinker moth (*Odonestis Potatoria*, German), which is nearly as large as a hemp seed, to that of the rose plant louse (*Aphis rose*), which is so small

as to be barely visible to the naked eye. Some eggs of the gipsy moth (*Hypogymna dispar*, Stephens), indeed, floated in the water because they were covered with down. It is well known, as we shall presently show, that the diffusion of many of the seeds of plants is accomplished by the winged down with which they are clothed; but the down upon the eggs of insects does not conduce to this end. Whether insect eggs be naked or clothed with down, they are invariably, as far as their history has been investigated, deposited close to or upon substances capable of affording food to the young when hatched. In making experiments upon the specific gravity of eggs, it should be remembered that no infertile or unimpregnated egg will sink; for having some hundreds of these laid by different species of insects reared in our cabinet, we found upon trial, that they uniformly floated, while those which we knew to be impregnated as uniformly sunk."

Now the specific gravity of these eggs being such as would sink them rapidly in the deep and comparatively still water (where, of course, the accumulation of mud is greatest), it is by no means improbable that the eggs may remain protected in the mud for a period of years, until some flood or exciting cause should bring them to a position more favourable for hatching, in the same manner as the minutest seeds remain for periods, which it has been out of the power of man to trace, imbedded in the earth, until they are turned up sufficiently near to the surface to call forth their latent powers of vitality.

If this should be the case, it will account more readily for the great abundance of Mayfly in some years, and the absolute scarcity in others, in a manner more satisfactory and natural than any other which I have hitherto heard. In a very favourable season the fly is general over all parts of the water; while in other years the deeps scarcely afford sufficient for the fish to notice it. Yet in the scarcest seasons the flies which rise from the favoured shallow spots, when they return to the water to deposit the egg, seek the deeps indiscriminately with the shallows.

It is a notion prevalent among many fishermen that a severe winter destroys the larvæ of the Ephemeræ and other flies, but this can never be the case except in those situations where the water for purposes of irrigation has been artificially lowered almost to dryness so as to leave the grubs suddenly exposed to the severity of the weather. On the contrary, entomologists have remarked that after a severe winter the quantity of

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many insects is frequently much greater than in the ordinary course of a milder season.<sup>1</sup>

Whatever the principle may be that governs this interesting subject of research, I do not pretend to offer an opinion; but I beg to refer to some experiments detailed in two papers which have been published by Dr. Marshall Hall in the *Philosophical Transactions* for 1832, on the inverse ratio which subsists between the respiration and irritability in the animal kingdom, and upon hybernation, at the conclusion of which latter paper he remarks—

"This investigation naturally leads to that of the comparative conditions of the respiration and of the irritability in the pupa and perfect states of some species of the insect tribes. There is much reason to suppose that these states are respectively similar to those of lethargy and activity in the hybernating animal."

It is stated at page 98 of *Insect Transformations*—

"During the present spring of 1830, notwithstanding the severe frosts of the preceding winter, we have observed a much greater number of insects even of the smaller and more delicate kinds (*Alecyrodes*, *Corethra*, *Alucita*, &c.), as well as of larvæ, both those just hatched and those that have lived through the winter, than last year, when the frost was not so severe. We were particularly struck with the larvæ of some small tipula (*Boletophila*?) which we found in abundance in Brick Wood, Kent, feeding on a fungus (*Boletus fomentarius*, Fries.), and which were so beautifully transparent and soft that we could not understand how they had escaped being frozen."

To show further how little these delicate insects are affected in the most severe frosts, it is well known to every grayling fisher that, even when snow is on the ground, if a warm sun shines but for a few hours in the middle of the day the river will teem with a host of the most delicate Ephemeræ, as active in their motions and as perfect in their formation as in the hottest day of summer.

I have witnessed on the 7th of June 1829 the destructive influence of a frosty night; for, while fishing in the Test, the whole of the fly which had risen on the preceding days were found dead by thousands on the

<sup>1</sup> Such was certainly the case after the memorable winter 1894-5—the severest in my recollection. I had a rod at that time on the Avington water of the Itchen, and, although the Mayfly is unknown in that part of the river, there never was greater abundance of duns, &c. than we had in the succeeding summer.—ED.



grass; but though this night was so destructive in its effects to the Ephemeræ which had previously risen, and killed not only the more tender plants but also *Menyanthes Trifoliata* and *Arundo phragmites* almost to the water's edge, yet the rise of fly on that afternoon was uninjured, and its appearance on successive days for the remainder of the season undiminished in quantity.

Having now stated the various problems of the eggs of the Ephemeræ which I am anxious for assistance in solving, I come next to the larva state of the insect.

The utmost that I have as yet been able to ascertain from personal observation is given in the preceding remarks; but it is mentioned by Swammerdam in his life of the Ephemeron that in the larva state the Creator has furnished these insects with fit members to dig their cells; for, besides having two fore legs formed somewhat like those of moles or *Gryllotalpa*, they also possess two toothy cheeks, somewhat like the shears of lobsters, which serve them more readily to move the clay.

It is stated in *Insect Architecture*, page 205—

"In the bank of the stream at Lee in Kent, we had occasion to take up an old willow stump, which, previous to its being driven into the bank, had been perforated in numerous places by the caterpillar of the goat-moth (*Copra ligniperda*). From having been driven amongst the moist clay these perforations became filled with it, and the grubs of the Ephemeræ found them very suitable for their habitation; for the wood supplied a more secure protection than if their galleries had been excavated in the clay. In these holes of the wood we found several empty and some in which were full-grown grubs."

I must here notice a general error into which it appears to me many of the authors I have consulted have fallen with respect to the duration of the life of the Ephemeræ. The interesting account by Reaumur, *Mem.*, vol. vi. p. 485, of the appearance of the Ephemeræ on the Seine and Marne, having been already fully quoted at p. 373 to 376 of *Insect Transformations*, and partially by Spence and Kirby in *Introduction to Entomology*, vol. i. p. 279, and vol. ii. p. 368, I shall not introduce it here—but Reaumur states that these Ephemeræ rose from the water about sunset and died before the dawn of the following day.

Although the notion which generally exists respecting the short life of the Mayfly will be proved to those who take pains to investigate the subject to be unfounded, yet I cannot withhold from my readers some



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beautiful lines on the Mayfly which I met with this year in the *Penny Magazine*. They were suggested by the following observation of that generally accurate and intelligent naturalist, Mr. White, in his *History of Selborne*, viz. :—

“The angler’s Mayfly, the most short-lived in its perfect state of any of the insect race, emerges from the water, where it passes its *aurelia* state, about six in the evening, and dies about eleven at night.”

“The sun of the eve was warm and bright,  
When the May-fly burst his shell;  
And he wanton’d awhile in that fair light  
O’er the river’s gentle swell;  
And the deepening tints of the crimson sky  
Still gleam’d on the wing of the glad May-fly.

The colours of sunset pass’d away,  
The crimson and yellow-green,  
And the evening-star’s first twinkling ray  
In the waveless stream was seen;  
Till the deep repose of the stillest night  
Was hushing about his giddy flight.

The noon of the night is nearly come,  
There’s a crescent in the sky;  
The silence still hears the myriad hum  
Of the insect revelry.  
The hum has ceased—the quiet wave  
Is now the sportive May-fly’s grave.

Oh! thine was a blessed lot—to spring  
In thy lustihood to air,  
And sail about on untiring wing  
Through a world most rich and fair;  
To drop at once in thy watery bed,  
Like a leaf that the willow branch has shed.

And who shall say that his thread of years  
Is a life more blest than thine?  
Has his feverish dream of doubts and fears  
Such joys as those which shine  
In the constant pleasures of thy way,  
Most happy child of the happy May?

For thou wert born when the earth was clad  
 With her robe of buds and flowers,  
 And didst float about with a soul as glad  
 As a bird in the sunny showers ;  
 And the hour of thy death had a sweet repose  
 Like a melody sweetest at its close.

Nor too brief the date of thy cheerful race ;  
 'Tis its use that measures time ;  
 And the mighty Spirit, that fills all space  
 With His life and His will sublime,  
 May see that the May-fly and the Man  
 Each flutter out the same small span.

And the fly that is born with the sinking sun,  
 To die ere the midnight hour,  
 May have deeper joy, ere his course be run,  
 Than Man in his pride and power ;  
 And the insect's minutes be spared the fears  
 And the anxious doubts of our threescore years.

The years and the minutes are as one ;  
 The fly drops in his twilight mirth,  
 And Man, when his long day's work is done  
 Crawls to the self-same earth.  
 Great Father of each ! may *our* mortal day  
 Be the prelude to an endless May."

The error, I conceive, has arisen from not remarking the difference between the fly in its most perfect state, after it has shifted the skin in which it quits the water, and before that change has taken place. In the last stage it returns to the water to deposit the egg, and dies exhausted by the operation ; in the first stage it remains a certain time, varying probably with different species before it returns to the water. There is in this country a minute transparent species, but little bigger than a small gnat, which returns to the water frequently in myriads at sunset and is known by the name of "the fisherman's bane"—for though it is so minute, yet, when that fly is to be had, the fish neglect the larger and apparently more tempting morsel. I have found these flies late in the evening so thick upon my jacket as to assume the appearance of down having been thrown over it ; and the exuviae, from which they have freed themselves during the time they retained their position, have completely

covered the cloth. Yet these flies are to be obtained in the daytime, without the transparent wing which denotes their last and most perfect state, as is the case with all the other species, which I have met with in the pursuit of my sport. Very little is known about the smaller Ephemera in general; but I have never yet visited the river at any period of the year during warm sunshine without observing them; although they appear less during the summer months than in autumn, winter and spring.

There is great difficulty in determining the point whether the flies of different colours, of which many shades are to be found at the same time, are different species; unless an experienced entomologist was enabled to make his observations daily by a residence at the river side; for the delicacy of their frame hardly admits of the ordinary mode of preserving them free from injury in an insect box; and even in the specimens which can be fixed in the box tolerably free from injury, the colours are so evanescent as in great measure to alter the character of the insect and entirely to destroy its beauty; while the whole frame shrivels in such a manner as to convey a very indistinct idea of its original construction or to determine with accuracy any minute specific distinction after an interval of twenty-four hours.

It is a common observation that in late years the Mayfly is much diminished in quantity from that which is remembered many years since. I confess my belief that this is the case to a certain extent; although I am inclined to think that all men, as they advance in years, hazard conclusions of this kind with reference to weather, sport, &c., under impressions which, stamped with the force of youthful ardour, become identified with our associations as of general occurrence, although they may have originated in former years by the favourable concurrence of particular causes, and induce us now to fancy that all the seasons at that period of life were more favourable than the present. Unless therefore any individual should have annually recorded observations on this point, it is difficult to reason upon the extent of the decrease. The diminution of the quantity of fly in most rivers is thus alluded to at page 63 of *Salmonia*, "except in those rivers which are fed from sources that run from chalk and which are almost perennial, such as the Wandle and the Hampshire Rivers," &c. Now the complaint of the oldest fishermen at Stockbridge is that the quantity is much decreased in the Test, which rises wholly in the chalk formation. The author of *Salmonia* accounts

for the decrease in other rivers by the draining of bogs and marshes which supplied them with water and therefore diminished the extent of surface favourable to their reproduction. I attribute the decrease of fly to the same cause that has been most injurious to the increase of fish in all those rivers where the system of irrigation in water meadows has been introduced, and the formation of canals has, by the necessary changing of the water from one place to another, destroyed the eggs and the larvæ of insects as well as the spawn and fry of fish. In Hampshire it is the practice to turn the water on the meadows on the 12th of May—and it continues in them for a month. Great destruction therefore must ensue to thousands of eggs when the meadows are left dry and exposed to the scorching sun of the following summer, unprotected by the element which is favourable to their future successful development.

But while we are comparing the quantity of Mayfly of the present with that of former years in this country, how insignificant must be the greatest rise of fly within our recollection to that which is mentioned in the *Elements of Natural History*, or *Introduction to the Systema Naturæ* of Linnæus, where it is stated that in Carniola these insects are produced in such quantities that they are collected to manure the land, and that each person considers himself unsuccessful unless he procures as much as twenty cart loads for that purpose.

Those who like to refer for information to authors on the above subjects will find it stated in Spence and Kirby, vol. iv. page 185 and page 162, that Ephemeræ exclude the whole mass of eggs at once. De Geer, vol. ii. page 368, asserts that the eggs of Ephemeræ are more minute than the smallest grains of sand—and Reaumur, vi., 509, t. 45, f. 11, 12, speaks of a riband of eggs which drops from the Ephemeræ.

Now, as far as these observations apply to *Ephemera vulgata*, they are, in some measure, I conceive, erroneous; for the female does not appear to deposit the whole in a mass, but is occupied for some time constantly dipping to the water to deposit her eggs, as I have before remarked.

The following information on the respiratory organs of larvæ will be interesting from Spence and Kirby, vol. iv. p. 57 :—

"Laminose or foliaceous respiratory appendages distinguish the sides of the abdomen of the larvæ and pupæ of the Ephemeræ. In them these organs wear much the appearance of gills. In the different species they vary both in their number and structure. With regard to their number, some have only six pair of them, while others have seven. In their



structure the variations are more numerous and sometimes present to the admiring physiologist very beautiful forms. They usually consist of two branches, but occasionally are single with one part folding over the other, as in one figured by Reaumur, which precisely resembles the leaf of some plant, the air vessels or branchiæ in connection with the trachea branching and traversing it in all directions, like the veins of leaves. The double ones differ in form. In the larva and pupa of *Ephemera vulgata* there are six of these double false gills on each side of the abdomen, the three last segments being without them, each branch consists of a long fusiform piece, rather tumid and terminating in a point, which is fringed on each side with a number of flattish filaments blunt at the end. An air vessel from the trachea enters the gill at its base; is first divided into two larger branches, each of which enters a branch of the false gill. These branches send forth on each side numerous lesser ramifications, one of which enters each of the filaments.<sup>1</sup> In another species (*E. vespertina*) each false gill presents the appearance of a pair of ovate leaves with a long acumen, and the air-vessels represent the mid-rib of the leaf, with veins branching from it on each side;<sup>2</sup> and, to name no more, in *E. fusco grisea*, one branch represents the leaf of a begonia, the sides not being symmetrical, with its veins, while the other consists only of numerous branching filaments.<sup>3</sup> In other aquatic larvæ, as in that of the common Mayfly, these appearances consist in several joints.<sup>4</sup>

By the above apparatus these aquatic animals are enabled to separate the air from the water, as the fish by their gills, but how this separation is made has not been precisely explained. The false gills in many species are kept in continual and intense agitation. When they move briskly to one side, Reaumur conjectures they may receive the air, and when they return back they may emit it.<sup>5</sup> This brisk motion probably disengages it from the water. In many species, when in repose, they are laid upon the back of the animal,<sup>6</sup> but in others they are not.<sup>7</sup>

In the perfect insect there are other parts of their structure well worthy of close observation, as the following extracts will prove.

Spence and Kirby say (vol. iv. p. 249): "By the Ephemera, which have very short antennæ, the fore legs, when they fly, are extended before the head, parallel with each other and quite united—probably to assist in cutting the air." They also remark (vol. iii. p. 119): "It is a general

<sup>1</sup> De Geer, ii. 624.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid. 647.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid. 653.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid. 727.

<sup>5</sup> Reaumur, vi. 465.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid. t. xliii. f. 4, 5; De Geer, ii. 623.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid. 648, t. xvii. f. 11, 12.

rule that the antennæ of larvæ are shorter than the same organs in the perfect insect—the tribe of Ephemere perhaps affording the only example in which the reverse of this takes place.”

The eyes of males are deserving of notice, for “the male of more than one species of Ephemera, besides the common lateral eyes and the *stemmata* on the back of the head, have a pair of compound eyes on the top of a short column or process” (Spence and Kirby, vol. iii. p. 499).

The tail of some species of the genus Ephemera is furnished with three long, jointed, hairy bristles. We learn from Reaumur with respect to one, that, though in the female these are all equal in length, yet in the male there is only a rudiment of the third. On the belly near the arms these males have four fleshy appendages, the posterior ones setaceous and long, and the anterior pair filiform and shorter. They are supposed to represent the anal forceps of other insects.<sup>1</sup> In *Ephemera vulgata*, described by De Geer, both sexes have three bristles, but those of the male are the longest, and he describes the forceps as consisting of only a pair of jointed pieces forming a bow not unlike the forceps of an earwig<sup>2</sup> (Spence and Kirby, vol. iii. p. 342).

In any experiments which naturalists may be tempted to make with respect to the period of existence allotted to the different species of Ephemera in their imago state there is one curious fact mentioned in *Insect Miscellanies*, page 218, namely, “that after insects pair, and the females deposit their eggs, they very soon die, seldom living a few days, sometimes only a few hours afterwards—but should this pairing be prevented their lives, and particularly that of the female, may be protracted to an indefinite period.”

In reference to this statement, and in allusion to the analogy which has been already adverted to which exists between the eggs of insects and the seeds of plants, it is worthy of remark that a method resorted to by florists for the production of seed from favourite flowers exhibits the same result—which fact I have the opportunity of stating from personal attention and experience. When a florist selects a geranium, for instance, from which he is desirous of obtaining seed by impregnation from a different variety of the same species—his object is, upon the first opening of the petals, to cut off immediately all the anthers from the interior of the blossom before the pollen is sufficiently matured to risk the chance of contact with the stigma, which from their natural juxtaposition would

<sup>1</sup> Reaumur. vi. 494, t. xlv. f. 3, 11.

<sup>2</sup> De Geer, ii. t. xvii. f. 5-7.

otherwise occur; and he afterwards selects the anthers from the variety with which he is anxious to have a cross breed to impregnate the pistil of the blossom so deprived of its anthers. Immediately after this process has taken place, he surrounds the blossom with a piece of fine gauze which is tied round the stem. The gauze being sufficiently extended above and at the sides of the blossom to admit a free circulation of air but so as to exclude effectually the approach of insects, he finds within a few hours afterwards that the stigma at the top of the pistil, having fulfilled the office for which the flower was intended, collapses; and the petals shortly afterwards fall off; but if at the same time he pursues precisely the same course of cutting off the anthers from a flower on the same stem and covers it in a similar way without having resorted to the expedient of artificial impregnation, he will find that the petals will remain for a long period in the full vigour of all their pristine beauty without exhibiting any appearance of decay.

Thus, brother anglers, have I attempted to redeem my promise of giving you the result of my own observations on the Mayfly, and of placing before you in a connected manner the various notices from the researches of those scientific individuals from whose works I have made such ample extracts, in the hope of bringing into as narrow a compass as possible the various information which has been introduced by them in furtherance of their more learned investigations in the higher branches of the science of entomology.

Let me entreat you, that, while you are criticising any errors I may have committed, or any false reasoning upon which I have drawn my inferences, you will administer the most satisfactory punishment which my faults may have deserved, namely, the investigation individually of all circumstances yourselves, and proving to me by actual demonstration the mistakes into which I have fallen. It is a mistake to suppose that it is necessary as a preliminary step to such investigation that a person should be a naturalist before he commences such a work: intelligence and perseverance in collecting facts, and accuracy in recording them, guarding at the same time against adopting any hasty deductions as conclusive evidence, will ultimately reward the patient investigator in this pursuit; and with this advice I have arrived at the point from which I started. Thus, if what the industry of others shall in future times discover in this way be added to these observations, it is to be hoped that a common stock may thence grow and come to be of some importance.



It may be interesting to the fishermen of Hampshire to be informed, that upon reference to the *Philosophical Transactions* of 1746, No. 481, p. 329, they will find a paper by Mr. Peter Collinson, dated Winchester, 26th May 1744, in which he describes the rise of the Mayfly in the Itchen, as well as the change which the insect undergoes in its fly state; which paper he concludes by stating that after the last day of May or in three or four subsequent days it had totally disappeared. At the present time, in average seasons the fly is scarcely ever up strong at Winchester before the first of June.<sup>1</sup>

There is a notice of Mr. Collinson's paper in a note to the 5th Edition of Walton by Sir John Hawkins (pp. 86-88); but the editor, who finds fault with the manner in which Mr. Collinson describes the Mayfly, has fallen into a greater error himself, in supposing that the small Ephemera, probably *Horaria*, which rises in the evening and to which I have alluded, is the fly described by Mr. Collinson.

<sup>1</sup> The discrepancy is accounted for by the fact that Collinson was writing before the Gregorian Calendar was adopted in England. This was not done till 1751, though the Scottish Legislature had done so in 1600. In 1833 the difference between the Old and New Styles was twelve days.—ED.





### CHAPTER III

"Whose miseries are to be smiled at, their offences being so capital."—*Winter's Tale*.

A WORK has been lately published entitled *Maxims and Hints for an Angler by a Bungler, and the Miseries of Fishing*, by a highly valued friend and brother angler;<sup>1</sup> and the peculiar quaintness and originality of that talent, with which he enlivens the hours of social intercourse with his friends, has been displayed with the hand of a master in describing those little distresses and difficulties, which, though annoying when they occur, only furnish a subject of merriment after the first inconvenience has passed.

As, however, after the perusal of this little volume, I have a lively recollection of certain other unnoticed incidents, as my friend observes, *quæque ipse miserrima vici* (to which I must add, *et quorum pars magna fui*), I trust I may be allowed in this my *Comedy of Errors*—

"To tell sad stories of my own mishaps"—

as well as to record some that I have witnessed as occurring to my friends; which, although they have tended for a few moments to discompose that unruffled serenity of temper, which ought at all times to distinguish the character of our brethren, have ultimately furnished amusement to all who could enter into the spirit of them from sad experience—and may hereafter operate as a warning to others to steer clear of little concurrent difficulties which may exhibit them to their friends

"In sad similitude of griefs to mine."

1. Hearing something strike your rod as you throw the artificial fly, and finding, when you rise a good fish, that although you succeeded admirably in your cast of the fly, you had not been equally successful in prevailing upon the point and barb of the hook to quit its newly formed alliance with the rod.

<sup>1</sup> Richard Penn.—Ed.

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2. Discovering, when you have arrived at the middle of a narrow plank over a deep ditch, that the carpenter had put the round side undermost, without a nail.

3. While you are quadrilling with a three-pound trout on Houghton Shallows having a *dos-a-dos* with a post full of tenterhooks under water.

4. Summoning courage to jump a wide ditch, and ascertaining, when you are a little more than half way over, that the weight in your pockets with the wind against you renders your landing on the opposite bank



impossible; and that your situation is likely to be such as would effectually exclude any hope of profiting from the assistance of your valuable watch to enable you to correct this error of latitude.

5. Standing on the extreme verge of the bank with the blowing line and the wind on the opposite quarter; then, just as you have attained your object of straining with the whole weight of a heavy rod which you can scarcely manage, feeling the first tremulous motion which precedes an earthquake and gives you but short notice of the waterquake by which your attendant discovers that your countenance is alarmingly agitated, and which occurs before you have time to think of the rats that had undermined the bank—and issued a Commission of *Bankruptcy* against you.

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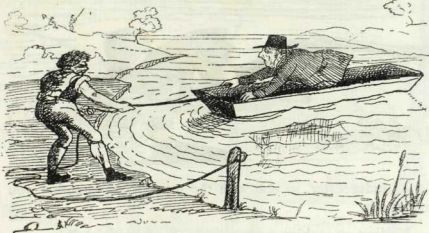
6. If your reel is out of order and you cannot wind it one way, contriving, with some force, to move it the other until you are satisfied at last that the result of the joint attempt has been to render it immovable altogether.

7. Walking some distance to cross the water at the only practicable place where a punt is moored for the purpose—and finding that the cattle had gnawed the rope asunder half a minute before you arrived.

8. Or, that your careless friend who preceded you (just long enough to get out of hailing distance), had so entangled the rope on the opposite post, that you could only haul the punt three-fourths of the distance over the river.

9. When you have strained to the utmost to pull on, by the river side, a heavy boot, over a damp stocking which is rather too long in the foot, discovering, when your strength fails you, that your heel is one inch and a half short of the desired position, while the superabundant stocking effectually precludes the possibility, without a boot-jack, of getting off the boot.

10. Your sport depending entirely on being able to cross over to the other side, and, although there is a boat moored for the purpose, being



suddenly attacked on embarkation with all the symptoms of confirmed hydrophobia.

11. Having incautiously put your snuff-box and that which contains gentles into the same pocket, and not being aware that a blow against a

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gate-post *en passant* has opened both, until you take a pinch of snuff: when you are reminded of the observations of Macbeth—

"... the air  
*Nimbly* and sweetly recommends itself  
Unto our *gentle* senses."

12. After having waited for two hours without seeing anything rise and walking to a short distance where you had observed a motion in the water; and then, after having laboured ineffectually for half an hour to get a rise, receiving from your attendant in reply to your observation, "He won't rise at me, John"—"Lauk, sir, did you think that was a fish—I see'd he—'twas only one of they dapper chickey's."

13. Stooping to drink, and feeling your pannier, heavy with fish, gliding rapidly over your shoulders, taking certainly your hat, with probably your



head in it, under water, so that with the most sober intention you get a drop too much.

14. Finding on looking over your book of artificial flies in the spring that your stock is unexpectedly diminished, but that you have abundant promise of natural flies to supply their place by nursing the quantity of maggots that are still busily feeding on the melancholy medley of wool, fur and feathers.



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15. When fishing with the natural fly being forcibly struck with the appropriateness of the name *swallow* for the bird that takes off and devours the only remaining fly you possess just as you were placing it before a large fish that is rising eagerly.

16. Seeing the ring of the landing-net beginning to unscrew with the weight of a three-pounder; and the conviction that flashes across your mind on seeing your attendant *motionless* and hearing him mutter "Dang it!—that's a bad job!"

17. Taking out your book when standing in the shallows to change your fly, and observing plenty of flies on the water down stream, which upon closer inspection prove to be those you were searching for in your book.

18. In an action of tackle versus trout, finding that defendant trout is deemed to be only a tenant-at-will, instead of holding a lease for his life; and the case being decided with damages versus tackle without any hope of a new trial.



19. While you are still eager to pursue your sport, *putting up your tackle* against your will, by hitching the line at the extremity of a branch,

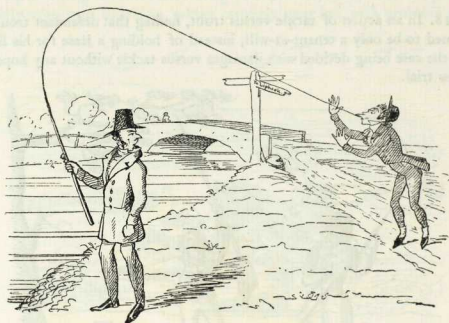
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sufficiently strong to make the connection perfect; but yet not strong enough to admit of approach by mounting the branch to dissolve the partnership.

20. When fishing near a public road, being stared at by an idler whose open-mouthed astonishment puts you, as well as himself, to more serious annoyance than you at first anticipated.

*Unde datum sentis, lupus hic Tiberinus, an alto  
Captus hiet? pontine interjectatus, an alto  
Ostia sub Tusi?*

It is very evident that our friend Horace intended to have introduced this sketch with the above passage, and that the real meaning of *alto* is the



high road; also that *amnīs ostia sub Tusi* is not, as readers in general may have supposed, the *Mouth of the River Tiber*—but that it alludes to the mouth and tusks of the hookee's face.

21. Giving a heavy fish sufficient line to enable him to get on the other side of a large post, which has been placed at the tail of a deep hole since you fished there the previous season.

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22. Lounging on a bridge with a friend, quizzing an indefatigable and persevering flogger of the water on a still day with bright sunshine; and just as you have made the remark, "Let him alone, he'll find out his error when his arm aches," witnessing the bending obeisance with which the top of his rod acknowledges the presence of *The Grand Seigneur*.

23. Walking home at night with heavy boots, one, if not both, full of water, on a cross road, partly up hill; only two ruts, both very deep; and the middle composed of alternate high flints and holes to match—your conscience reminding you, at the same time, that you had opposed the general introduction of MacAdam's principle of improvement in roads as expensive and unnecessary.

24. At the end of a blank day landing a fish, and seeing your attendant, immediately after the hook is disengaged, throw him in again, as being *rather* under weight.

25. Taking a chance at night of your last cast at a place on your progress homewards, supposing the spot unoccupied; and, though you cannot distinguish any figure, seeing the sudden glow produced by lighting a cigar.



26. Speculating rather too deeply in Canal shares, and applying, in consequence of temporary distress, to your banker to *become your security*.

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27. The feelings that magnify your calculation of the weight of a fish already in the landing-net, outraged by the inability of the decayed state of the twine to prevent it from falling through and escaping.

28. A chilling hint when you sit down to dinner in a tent by the river-side that you have waded deeper than you intended.



## CHAPTER IV

"Tis true—There's magic in the web of it  
A sibyl, that had numbered in the world  
The sun to make two hundred compasses,  
In her prophetic fury sewed the work;  
The worms were hallowed that did breed the silk."—*Othello*.

WE are too apt to avail ourselves of the advantages which we derive from the use of materials, without considering the question—"What is the nature of these materials? and how are they produced?"

One of the most important agents of deception in the magazine of an angler is a hank of good gut—What is it? You answer me—It is silk-worm gut. Aye, quoth I; but do you mean that it is formed of the intestines of the silkworm? Surely the caterpillar of *Phalena mori* does not contain any intestinal organs capable of producing a substance of the size and strength of that which we have daily in use. If you feel satisfied that the intestinal structure of this larva must be too minute, as compared with the substance we see before us; what other part is it? by what process is the manufacture carried on? whence do we receive it? What are its properties? Has anybody attempted to make it in England?

All the older fishing books are silent upon this subject, and the instructions given in them for tying hooks are confined to the choice and preparation of hair, and of lines twisted thereof, on which the hooks were fastened with three, two, or in some cases a single hair according to the fineness or strength required.

I have taken great pains to trace the period at which this substance was first introduced, and have searched the various encyclopedias and fishing books, &c., for an account of it—and I have met with but little success.

It is evident that the material was originally brought to this country as *Indian Grass* or *Weed*, by which names it was for a long time designated, and was supposed to be a vegetable substance. It was at first difficult to obtain, and was much too coarse for the finer purposes of the fly fisher;

added to which it was extremely brittle unless thoroughly soaked in water to ensure its flexibility. That it is not of vegetable origin the simple experiment of burning will prove, as it emits the same odour which distinguishes animal from vegetable substances.

In the *Angler's Vade Mecum*, second edition, by James Chetham, written in 1688, no mention is made of any substance being used for the angler's purpose except hair; but this book was published in 1689, and an advertisement at the end of it, from William Brown at the Sign of the Fish in Black Horse Alley near Fleet Bridge, announces that he selleth all manner of fishing tackle and also the *East Indian Weed*.

In the *Angler's Sure Guide*, published by R. H., Esq., in 1706, after general directions for choosing and tying hooks to hair, is added—"or instead thereof use sound, strong China or Indian Grass—or if you cannot get Indian Grass make use of the smallest and roundest bowel or lute strings you can procure."

Dr. Brookes in his *Art of Angling*, third edition, published in 1770, mentions (page 16) tying flies on silkworm gut; but at page 101 and 102 he speaks of Indian or Sea Grass as being with proper management the best material yet known, although he adds in the following page that, if it is coarse, gut has the advantage.

Moses Browne in his eighth edition of Walton, 1772, at page 93, in a note (referring to the text, where it is recommended to fish with a single hair next the hook) observes, "The best thing is a hog's bristle, either one or two, Indian Grass, or rather silkworm gut, sold common at the shops."

The above extracts prove, that as Indian weed the substance was known here before the year 1700; but that it was not readily obtained in 1706, and even as late as 1770 the gut is spoken of distinct from the Indian grass. To prove further how little was known on the subject even at a later period I find in Anderson's *Recreations in Agriculture* (vol. iii. page 314), published in May 1800, a notice on papyriforous plants, in which the writer alludes to a kind of *sea grass*, which comes from India, and is sold at the fishing tackle shops, but he adds that Dr. Anderson had not been successful in his researches after this plant. In the same work (page 395, vol. iv.) an old Waltonian corrects the error of the supposition that it is of vegetable origin, and proves, by experiments which he details, that it is an animal substance. He then speaks of silkworm gut as being obtained by destroying the caterpillars when they are preparing to spin,

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macerating their exterior integuments, and drawing out the entrail to a certain length. Another notice from *Verax* in the same work in February 1801, referring to this subject, supplies the following curious experiment :—

"I opened several caterpillars of the silkworm with an intention of discovering the quality of the silk whilst it lay in the body of the caterpillar. I found it there exactly similar to the small intestines of animals, coiled up in various folds, and took it out in appearance a single thread, which I extended about a foot in length, and suffered to dry supposing myself in full possession of silk gut for angling; but to my astonishment when dry it was void of elasticity, brittle, and snapt like a thread of glass of the same size. Whilst under this perplexity I met with a gentleman who had been in Barcelona; he told me, that the method for obtaining the gut was, to lay the caterpillars in vinegar a certain time; but having no caterpillar, either then or since, to make further experiments on, I can speak no further on the subject, except of my experiment on the gut that I had before extracted, which remained in its rigid and brittle state. This I soaked in vinegar for a day or two, when to my surprise it became elastic, tough, and capable of extension some inches: and probably, if it had been properly put in vinegar in the first instance, might have been used with effect by an angler. The best time for extracting the gut is, undoubtedly, the period when the caterpillar ceases eating, and shows signs of its intention to begin spinning its web."

Here then we have the first insight, that I can find on record, as to the nature of the substance and of its manufacture; but the experiment of *Verax* above quoted proves that it is not the intestines of the animal that compose this material, but that it is the vessel which produces the silk itself at the period of its utmost perfection, previous to the construction of the case, which is to form its natural protection in the chrysalis or pupa state. To enable my readers to form some idea of the beautiful and wonderful contrivance by which the insect is enabled to supply the silk, I extract from Paley's *Natural Theology* (page 359) the following interesting account :—

"The organisation in the abdomen of the silk-worm or spider whereby these insects form their thread is as incontestably mechanical as a wire-drawer's mill. In the body of the silk-worm are two bags, remarkable for their form, position, and use. They wind round the intestine; when drawn out they are ten inches in length, though the animal itself be only two. Within these bags is collected a glue; and, communicating with

the bags, are two paps or outlets, perforated like a grater by a number of small holes. The glue or gum being passed through these minute apertures, forms hairs of almost imperceptible fineness; and these hairs when joined compose the silk which we wind off from the cone, in which the silkworm has wrapped itself up. In the spider the web is formed from this thread. In both cases the extremity of the thread by means of its adhesive quality is first attached by the animal to some external hold: and the end being now fastened to a point, the insect, by turning round its body or by receding from that point, draws out the thread through the holes above described, by an operation, as hath been observed exactly similar to the drawing of wire. The thread, like the wire, is formed by the hole through which it passes. In one respect there is a difference; the wire is the metal unaltered, except in figure. In the animal process, the nature of the substance is somewhat changed, as well as the form: for, as it exists within the insect, it is a soft, clammy gum, or glue. The thread probably acquires its firmness and tenacity from the action of the air upon its surface in the moment of exposure, and a thread so fine is almost all surface. This property, however, of the paste, is part of the contrivance.

"The mechanism itself consists of the bags or reservoirs, into which the glue is collected, and of the external holes communicating with these bags, and the action of the machine is seen, in the forming of a thread as wire is formed, by forcing the material already prepared through holes of proper dimensions. The secretion is an act too subtle for our discernment, except as we perceive it by the produce. But one thing answers to another—the secretory glands to the quality and consistence required in the secreted substance—the bag to its reception—the outlets and orifices being constructed not merely for relieving the reservoirs of their burden, but for manufacturing the contents into a form and texture, of great external use, or rather indeed of future necessity, to the life and functions of the insect."

This is all I have been able to collect as yet on the first two points, viz. What is it? and how is it manufactured? I have now to say from whence we receive it.

The principal importation is from Spain (principally Valencia) and Italy; though some is made in the south of France and in other parts of the Mediterranean. That which comes from China is generally inferior, from sufficient attention not having been paid to its manufacture, as it is more brittle and inclined to split. I have occasionally met with some from



the latter country which has been remarkable for its length and size, and have some in my possession which is valuable where great strength is required. It is more yellow in its appearance, and has a harsh feel to the touch, by which it is readily distinguishable by those accustomed to purchase gut; and I have strong reasons for believing that the gut from China is not the produce of the same insect that supplies us with the material imported from the Mediterranean. I have long had a suspicion of this kind, which is much strengthened by a reference to Du Halde's *History of China* (vol. i. page 354), where he states that there are two worms which produce the silk: the one larger—*Tsuen-kyen*—the other smaller—*Tyan-kyen*—the silk of the latter being in much greater estimation than the other, as it never cuts, lasts long, and washes like linen.

An account was published on the 5th January 1802 in the *Linnean Transactions* (vol. vii. page 33) by Dr. Roxburgh, of the Tussur and Arrindy silkworms of Bengal. The first described by Dr. R. as *Phalena paphia* (*Ph. attacus* of Linnæus, and *Bombyx melitta* of Fabricius), the insect being called by the natives of Bengal *Bughy*—and producing an abundant supply of a most durable, coarse, dark-coloured silk called Tussur; the larvæ being four inches long and three in circumference. There are also two other varieties of this species, one of which is called the *Jarroo*.

The second species is described as *Ph. cynthia*, known to the natives in two districts only in the interior—by the name of Arrindy, owing to its feeding on the leaves of *Ricinus palma Christi*, or Castor-oil plant. The size of these larvæ is from two and a half to three inches long. The silk of this insect is remarkably soft, white, and delicate; but the filament is so exceedingly slender that it is impossible to wind it off; it is therefore run like cotton, and the cloth manufactured from it is of such durability that the life of one person is not long enough to wear out a garment, which descends in families as an heirloom from mother to daughter.

From these accounts of Du Halde and Dr. Roxburgh it appears that the insects which produce the silk of India are distinct species from that of China; for *Phalena mori* is a native of China which has been generally introduced into other countries, and from which all the silk of Europe, I believe, is at present produced.

Now it would be important to endeavour through some of our Chinese and Bengal merchants to obtain the history of the method of producing the gut; and also to try whether this harshness of the larger sort arises from any difference in the animal itself or from any defective manipula-

tion; and, if the latter, then to procure and forward an account of the most successful process of preparing it in Spain or Italy to any persons in China and Bengal who would be inclined to try the experiment. It is not improbable that there may be yet some species discovered which, from being still smaller than those hitherto used in the manufacture, may afford a finer material for the fisherman, whose great difficulty consists in obtaining a supply of very fine and strong gut for the more delicate part of his tackle. And indeed in our own country a series of experiments might be tried with some spiders, whose webs might produce by a similar process to that employed on the silk-bag of *Phalena mori* a substance applicable to the object of the angler.

An ingenious friend of mine when a boy at Eton, being fond of rearing silkworms as well as of fishing, tried to make some gut and to a certain extent succeeded; but he was unacquainted with the process of steeping the insect in vinegar, and merely drew out to a certain length the silk bags after they had been gradually hardened by exposure to the sun. I have never yet heard of any other attempt to make gut in this country except the instance of *Verax* above quoted, and the want of success in the attempts to produce silk in our uncertain and variable climate would be equally fatal to any attempt upon a great scale to manufacture the gut. Not that I would discourage the attempt in any ardent lover of experimental research, and would be most ready to acknowledge the additional gratification which any Piscator must experience in the capture of a good trout with gut, which was the produce of his own skill and ingenuity.

There is one property of gut which is not, I believe, generally known, namely, that it is the strongest material yet discovered of any substance of the same size. I have the highest authority for this statement, which was made to me by the late Dr. Wollaston, who mentioned, as the result of an experiment which he had tried, that this material would sustain a weight equal to twenty-two miles of its own length, this being the test to which ropes, cables, &c., are subjected to ascertain their tenacity and consequent strength.

Some, who doubt the strength of their tackle to sustain the weight of the heavier fish, try their gut previously to starting in the morning by the suspension of a two-pound weight. This is wholly unnecessary. The strength of gut in general is evident from the experiment above detailed, if careful selection has been attended to, and such pieces rejected as have any flaw in them. The principal point is to be careful of the knots, which

## ANGLING MEMORIES AND MAXIMS 247

require constant trial even during the day, and for this the rule of thumb, which experience teaches, is the best guide.

To those who are not fishermen, and who may wonder what all this means, it is only necessary to say that my observations have no reference



to the daily trial which forms the subject of the annexed sketch, as none of my fishing friends have tackle sufficiently strong to bear a two-pound weight.

There is one point which is material where fine tackle is necessary in very clear streams with very shy fish—I mean that high polish which the surface of the gut possesses, and which at times, when fishing with the natural fly, glistens with fatal brightness and warns the “burnt child” of the fate that may await him. This brightness may be got rid of by slightly rubbing the gut with fine powdered pumice stone or similar substance, which will destroy the polish sufficiently for the angler’s purpose.<sup>1</sup>

I have at present nothing to add, and I am aware but little additional information is afforded—it may, however, serve to occupy the attention of my brother anglers while they have leisure to reflect during their hours of contemplation by the river side; and if they cannot hit upon any improvement in the manufacture of this material or any discovery to furnish the supply of a finer sort, it may lead them at all events to the consideration

<sup>1</sup> A fresh alder-leaf serves equally well, without injuring the surface of the gut, as pumice must do.—Ed.

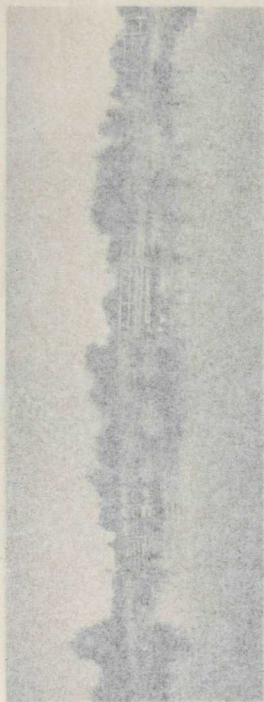
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that our sport mainly depends upon one of the most beautiful contrivances of Nature, and to agree with the poet that—

"each crawling insect holds a rank,  
Important in the plan of Him who framed  
This scale of beings—holds a rank, which lost,  
Would break the chain, and leave behind a gap  
Which Nature's self would rue."

*N.B.*—It is stated in *The Complete Fisherman*, by James Saunders, Esq., of Newton-Awbery-upon-Trent, published in 1824, that the Swiss, the Milanese, and the inhabitants of the mountainous parts of Italy make a fine and exceeding strong hair or line, resembling a single hair, which is drawn from the bowels of the silkworm, the glutinous substance of which is such, that the catgut, which makes strings for the viol or violin of an unaccountable strength, will be so strong as nothing of so small a size can equal it in Nature; for it is rather smaller than the single hair ordinarily used in fishing, and strong as the catgut itself; so that with these lines they secure the strongest fish in those rivers, where they have some trout also very large, as well as other fish. I have seen an imitation of these worm gut lines in England, which has been very strong, but not like that I have mentioned in Italy; yet these will hold a fish of good size, if he be not over violent, and does not too nimbly involve himself among weeds, and roots of trees where he cannot be pulled out."





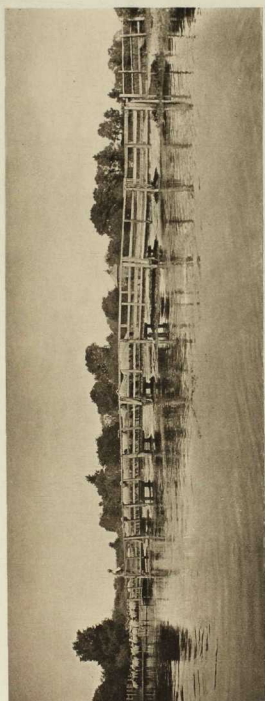
THE GREAT BRIDGE

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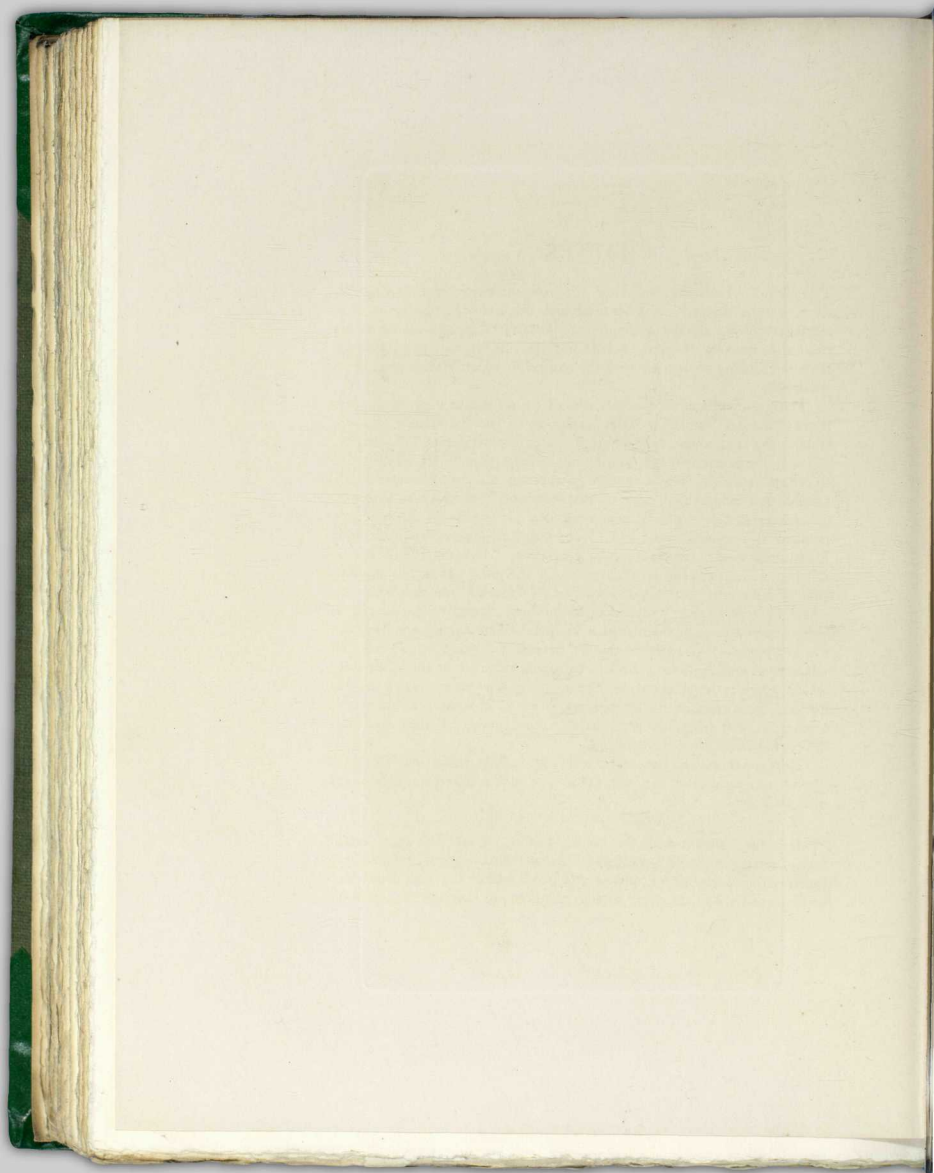
that our sport mainly depends upon one of the most beautiful contrivances of Nature, and to agree with the poet that—

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THE SHEEP BRIDGE





## CHAPTER V

THE Art of Fly-fishing consists of two different modes of following the sport, and is divided into Artificial and Natural—the former usually termed throwing the fly or whipping; the latter blowing out—so called from the necessity of wind to take out the line, as contradistinguished from the dipping or dapping with the natural fly which Walton and others speak of.

Persons uninitiated in the mysteries of the art might suppose that the terms "natural" and "artificial" referred to the individuals who are seeking the amusement, and not to the particular manner of following it; and under this erroneous impression might fancy that "artificial" applied to certain awkward pretenders who go through the forms because it is a fashion, and who exhibit none of that *natural* genius which so evidently governs every action of the true workman. It is easy to discover in a moment this artificial man, and I once heard an observation made by a Hampshire rustic attendant on a gentleman, "I know'd he'd do no mischief as soon as ever I see'd un handle the rod." It is this description of fishermen that is well described in Franck's Northern Memoirs, where he terms them "paper-sculled buffoons, devoid of reason and as indigent of patience as the man that hanged himself because the hangman was not ready—that confront the art, because fish won't meet them half way ashore, and leap into their laps before they come near the water side; where you may see them stand like so many star-gazers, gazing on the fish and the surface of the streams, whose aspect if possible would terrify a grampus, that seldom or never satisfy their appetite, till their avaricious desires have virtualled the pannier."

Now for those who have never witnessed such an exhibition, but might like to have an idea of the performances of such a fisherman, here is the man—

*Spectatum admissi, risum teneatis amici.*

It is far different with the natural genius. There is a quiet steady way of setting to work, a measured step, and his eye and his hand acting together to accomplish his purpose, and guard against the difficulties which so frequently arise. His very look explains at once that he understands his

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business. Like an old steady pointer that is sure of his game, his attitude is sufficient to inform you that he knows what he is about. He does not



confine himself to the bank, but wades the shallows to take advantage of the best position, and seems to say—

“We sport in water or we dance on land,  
And, born amphibious, food from both command.”



But this “blowing-out” is again liable to misconception, and, as I feel

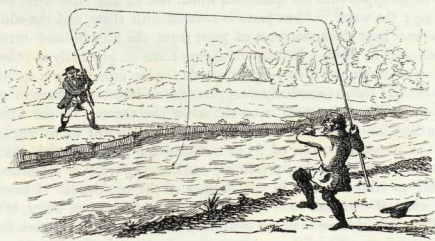
# ANGLING MEMORIES AND MAXIMS 251

bound to explain everything as it occurs to me, and to represent faithfully all the pleasure and all the inconvenience which is encountered during our pursuit, I must introduce here some symptoms of blowing-out in earnest.

In the above instance it is evident that there is no lack of wind for the purpose; on the contrary, rather too much of a good thing. In fishing, therefore, with the natural fly, how is the difficulty to be overcome when there is not a breath of air stirring? The ingenuity of anglers has devised an expedient called cross lining—generally considered poaching. It is managed by two men, one on each side of the river, their lines joined together by an intermediate piece to which swivels are attached in order that the line may not get twisted by the strain upon it, and a dropper, of four yards of gut at least, is fixed to a swivel which, when baited with a fly, is dropped on the water. All this would seem easy enough—but a little reflection, if you have not had experience, will prove that cross lining in a wide stream with both the performers at a considerable distance from the bank, both equally eager to play first fiddle when it is absolutely necessary that one should consider himself an automaton, occasionally with the best-tempered anglers ends in cross purposes—and the observation of Horace—

*Felices ter et amplius  
Quas irrupta tenet copula; nec malis  
Divulsus querimonii  
Suprema citius solvet amor die*

would not always apply to gentlemen so connected.



## CHAPTER VI

NEXT to the family of *Ephemera* already noticed, the most important insects in the angler's catalogue are found among the genus *Phryganeidae*, which includes those known and sold at the shops as the stone fly, the grannam or greentail, the caperer, the dun cut, the cinnamon fly, the willow fly, and the sand fly.

The stone fly is the largest of this genus and is not found in any great numbers in the rivers of Hampshire, but it is a capital bait and is readily taken during the spring and as late as the end of May. Very few are seen on the Test and Itchen, being principally found in stony rivers.

The first of this family that appears in quantity is the grannam, which, according to the forward or backward state of the season, may be observed from the 10th to the 22nd of April, coming on the water when the red currant is in blossom. This is also the first fly of the season which the fish seem to consider as a delicacy not to be resisted, and, perhaps more certainly than the Mayfly, brings all the fish, both large and small, to the top of the water by general consent. After the first few days of its appearance the quantities which rise on the river Test are very striking; the water in some parts is covered with them, and the eddies of the stream have the appearance of yeast from the accumulated masses of fly collected in them. It does not always come on gradually as other flies do, but often rises suddenly by thousands for ten minutes or a quarter of an hour, and then as suddenly disappears for an interval perhaps of twenty minutes. When the mass is on the water the chances of the fisherman are much diminished, and his best hope of success will be to employ the intervals between the rise of fly in watching for those few fish that may move or which he, having previously marked as worthy of attention, may be able to tempt to rise in the absence of the multitude. I have seen days when, if chaff had been shaken through a sieve upon water, it could not have been thicker than the swarms of these insects which were floating on its surface. The fish at last get perfectly gorged with them, and

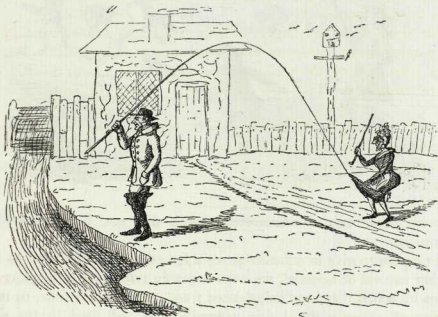


## ANGLING MEMORIES AND MAXIMS 253

after this period arrive at their first degree of excellence for the table, and begin to attain their true colour and flavour.

On some days the artificial grannam is very successful; but when the weather suits, the larger fish are more surely taken by the natural fly, and for this purpose it is better to select the female than the male, as it is larger and therefore more readily seen at a distance; the females of all the *Phryganeide* as well as of the *Ephemere* being larger than the males.

Any person not a fisherman would be puzzled to understand what was meant by fishing with "a natural grannam," and to such the annexed

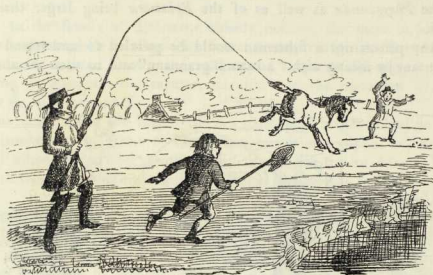


sketch would seem to be the only rational explanation. The uninitiated, however, must not suppose that, if such a distressing accident should occur, it would be a subject of merriment to a contemplative angler, and it is only therefore inserted here as a warning to be careful when fishing too near the road that no such scene should ever take place.

The next of these flies in any quantity are the dun cut and the caperer, &c., the latter being the term by which various flies of this family are known in Hampshire. They generally come on the last week in May and continue for the first three weeks in June. The fish are exceedingly

eager for them, and will not only take them well during the day, but greedily at sunset for about an hour; that being the time when they principally quit the sedge and fly over the water in quantities.

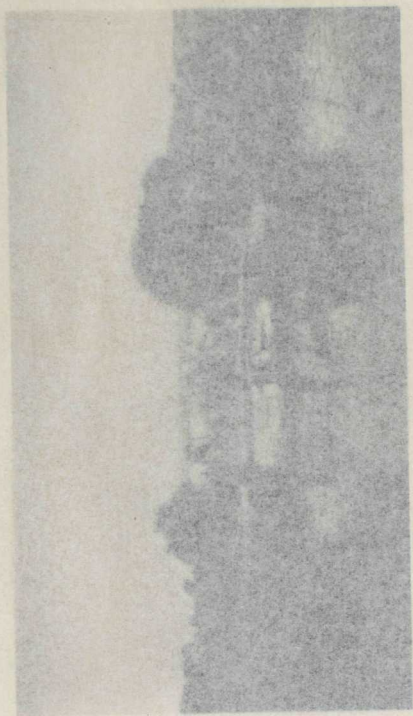
A case may be supposed that fishing with the caperer has a different meaning. Perhaps it has occurred already, or may hereafter, so that I



hope in either case the subjoined sketch will not be considered inappropriate.

I propose to give in a future paper a list of all the flies used as baits, whether natural or artificial, with the scientific references as to genera and species by which they are distinguished; and, at the same time, to reduce the list of those artificial flies generally sold and used to the simple catalogue to which I feel certain they may be properly referred.

We are all of us too apt to fill our fishing books with a useless variety of artificial lumber, and the peculiar disease to which fly-fishers must be predisposed by nature, and for which perhaps I may be allowed to use the term of *Muscmania*, frequently exhibits itself in an extraordinary manner. I was once present with a few friends upon an excursion when the question was started as to the number of flies then in the possession of the party present, and it appeared upon the return presented that nearly three hundred dozen were at that time on active duty. I shall endeavour hereafter to point out those that are really essential as the repre-



THE GREAT BRIDGE OLD RIVER

eager for them, and will not only take them well during the day, but greedily at sunset for about an hour; that being the time when they principally quit the sedge and fly over the water in quantities.

A case may be supposed that fishing with the *sager* has a different meaning. Perhaps it has occurred already, or may hereafter, so that I

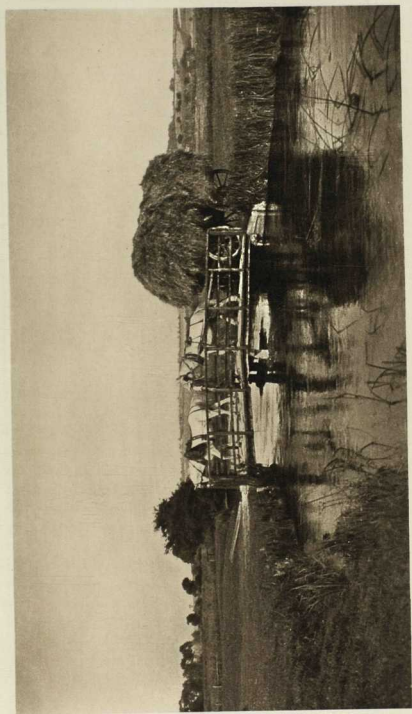


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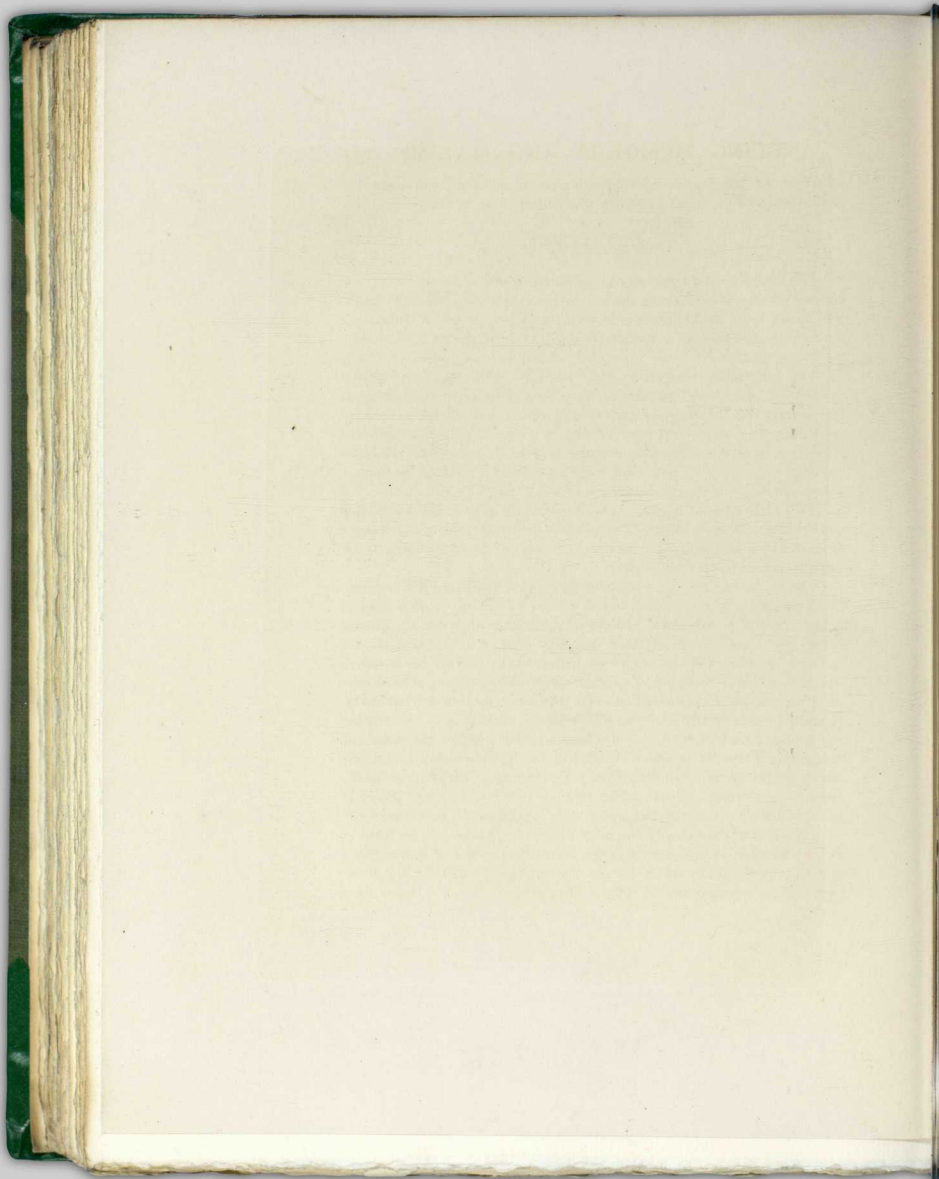
I propose to give in a future paper a list of all the flies used as baits, whether natural or artificial, with the scientific references as to genera and species by which they are distinguished; and, at the same time, to reduce the list of those artificial flies generally sold and used to the simple catalogue to which I feel certain they may be properly referred.

We are all of us too apt to fill our fishing books with a useless variety of artificial lumber, and the peculiar disease to which fly-fishers must be predisposed by nature, and for which perhaps I may be allowed to use the term of *Muscamania*, frequently exhibits itself in an extraordinary manner. I was once present with a few friends upon an excursion when the question was started as to the number of flies then in the possession of the party present, and it appeared upon the return presented that nearly three hundred dozen were at that time on active duty. I shall endeavour hereafter to point out those that are really essential as the repre-





THE CART BRIDGE OLD RIVER



## ANGLING MEMORIES AND MAXIMS 255

sentatives of the insects wherewith Nature supplies us, and leave the remainder to be explained by others who collect them, which—

“Like broken tea-cups wisely kept for show,  
Ranged in the *fly-book* glisten in a row.”

The whole of the *Phryganeide* are produced from caddis or case-worms spoken of also as codbait or cadbait in most of the old fishing books. The names must not be confounded with the cadew or cadow of the same authors which I believe is exclusively applied to the larvæ of *Ephemera vulgata*.

The information respecting the caddis is but comparatively little understood, and is well worthy the attention of naturalists; although I feel certain that nothing satisfactory and conclusive can be ascertained respecting them until some person living by a stream, where the different species are to be met with, will take the trouble to construct a place on purpose for their reception, and narrowly watch and record the observations annually of the results produced.

I shall not attempt to give a description of the curious and interesting cases which the larvæ of the *Phryganeide* construct, because an extract from Kirby and Spence in their *Introduction to Entomology* will better instruct my readers on this subject:—

“If you are desirous of examining the insects to which I am alluding, you have only to place yourself by the side of a clear and shallow pool of water, and you cannot fail to observe at the bottom little oblong moving masses resembling pieces of straw, wood, or even stone. These are the larvæ in question, well known to fishermen by the title of *caddis-worms*, which, if you take them out of the water, you will observe to inhabit cases of a very singular conformation. Of the larva itself which somewhat resembles the caterpillars of many *Lepidoptera*, nothing is to be seen but the head and six legs, by means of which it moves itself in the water and drags after it the case in which the rest of the body is inclosed, and into which on any alarm it wholly retires. The construction of these habitations is very various. Some select four or five pieces of the leaves of grass, which they glue together into a shapely polygonal case; others employ portions of the stems of rushes, placed side by side so as to form an elegant fluted cylinder; some arrange round them pieces of leaves like a spirally-rolled riband; others inclose themselves in a mass of the leaves of any aquatic plants, united without regularity; and others again form

their abode of minute pieces of wood either fresh or decayed. One, like *Sabella*, forms a horn-shaped case composed of grains of sand, so equal in size, and so nicely and regularly gummed together, the sides throughout being of the thickness of one grain only, that the first time I viewed it I could scarcely persuade myself it could be the work of an insect. The case of *Perla bimaclata*,<sup>1</sup> which is less artificially constructed of a mixture of mud and sand, is pyriform, and has its end curiously stopped by a plate formed of grains of sand, with a central aperture. Other species construct houses which may be called alive, forming them of shells of various aquatic snails of different kinds and sizes, even while inhabited, all of which are immoveably fixed to it, and dragged about at its pleasure—a covering as singular as if a savage, instead of clothing himself with squirrel's skins, should sew together into a coat the animals themselves. However various may be the form of the case externally, within it is usually cylindrical and lined with silk; and, though seldom apparently wider than just to admit the body of the insect, some species have the power of turning round in it, and of putting out their head at either end. Some larvæ constantly make their cases of the same materials; others employ indifferently any that are at hand; and the new ones which they construct as they increase in size (for they have not the faculty like the larva of the moth, of enlarging them) have often an appearance quite dissimilar to that of the old. Even those that are most careless about the nature of the materials of their house are solicitously attentive to one circumstance respecting them, namely, their specific gravity. Not having the power of swimming, but only of walking at the bottom of the water by aid of the six legs attached to the fore part of the body which is usually protruded out of the case, and the insect itself being heavier than water, it is of great importance that its house should be of a specific gravity so nearly equal to that of the element in which it resides, as, while walking, neither to incommode it by its weight, nor by too great buoyancy; and it is as essential that it should be so equally ballasted in every part as to be readily moveable in any position. Under these circumstances our caddis-worms evince their proficiency in hydrostatics, selecting the most suitable substances; and, if the cell be too heavy, glueing to it a bit of leaf or straw, or, if too light, a shell or piece of gravel. It is from this necessity of regulating the specific gravity, that

<sup>1</sup> The common stone-fly, which is known as the Mayfly in Scotland and its larva as the creeper.—ED.



to the cases formed with the greatest regularity we often see attached a seemingly superfluous piece of wood, leaf, or the like."

Again, these authors say (vol. ii. page 263)—

"But of all the contrivances by which insects in this state are secured from their enemies, there is none more ingenious than that to which the Mayflies (*Phryganea*, L.)<sup>1</sup> have recourse for this purpose. You have heard before that these insects are at first aquatic, and inhabit curious cases made of a variety of materials, which are usually open at each end. Since they must reside in these cases, when they are become pupæ, till the time of their final change approaches, if they are left open, how are the animals, now become torpid, to keep out their enemies? Or, if they are wholly closed, how is the water, which is necessary to their respiration and life, to be introduced? These sagacious creatures know how to compass both these ends at once. They fix a grate or portcullis to each extremity of their fortress, which, at the same time, keeps out intruders, and admits the water. These grates they weave with silk, spun from their anus, into strong threads, which cross each other, and are not soluble in water. One of them described by De Geer is very remarkable. It consists of a small, thickish, circular lamina of brown silk, becoming as hard as gum, which exactly fits the aperture of the case, and is fixed a little within the margin. It is pierced all over with holes disposed in concentric circles, and separated by ridges which go from the centre to the circumference, but often not quite so regularly as the radii of a circle or the spokes of a wheel. These radii are traversed again by other ridges, which follow the direction of the circles of holes; so that the two kinds of ridges crossing each other form compartments, in the centre of each of which is a hole."

It is further remarked at page 286, vol. iii.: "You have already been told that the larvæ of *Phryganeide* inclose themselves in cases of different materials open at each end. You have also learned that, in becoming pupæ, they secure each end of their cases with a grating of silk. When that change has occurred, they remain motionless at the bottom of the water. Now how are these pupæ, encased in tubes of a greater specific gravity than the surrounding fluid, to make their way to the surface when the time has arrived for their becoming denizens of the air? This they accomplish in the following manner:—The pupa is furnished with two strong, exterior, moveable, mandibuliform processes, and has the power

<sup>1</sup> Not the true Mayfly, but the stone fly.—ED.

of moving its four anterior legs and antennæ while in the pupa case. With these temporary jaws it makes an opening in one of the silken doors of its case, forces its way out at that end, and then by moving its legs (the cases of which in some species are ciliated for this very purpose), swims to the surface, where its skin splits, and discloses the included insect. That these jaws are given for the express and exclusive purpose of being thus applied seems undeniable. The pupa eats nothing—they are therefore in every other point of view superfluous. They are given to it alone of all other similar pupæ, because unnecessary to all others; and they are cast off along with the rest of the puparium, the perfect insect having no vestige of jaws."<sup>1</sup>

In *Insect Architecture* (page 188) there is an interesting account of the method in which these insects make their cases.

"We have repeatedly tried experiments with the inhabitants of those aquatic tents, to ascertain their mode of building. We have deprived them of their little houses, and furnished them with materials for constructing new ones, watching their proceedings from their laying the first stone or shell of the structure. They work at the commencement in a very clumsy manner, attaching a great number of chips to whatever materials may be within their reach with loose threads of silk, and many of these they never use at all in their perfect building. They act, indeed, much like an unskilful workman trying his hand before committing himself upon an intended work of difficult execution. Their main intention is, however, to have abundance of materials within reach: for, after their dwelling is fairly begun, they shut themselves up in it, and do not again protrude more than half of their body to procure materials; and even when they have dragged a stone, a shell, or chip of reed within building reach, they have often to reject it as unfit."

Every person that has used the different sorts of *Phryganeide* as bait must have observed the peculiar change of colour which the bodies of the females assume previous to depositing the eggs. It is most striking in the grannam from the rich green colour of the egg-bag—and it is in imitation of the females of different species of these insects in this state that the bodies of some of the artificial flies are dressed with various corresponding colours towards the tail. This class of insects are furnished with a remarkable organ, called by Kirby and Spence the jelly secretor, which supplies a substance that envelops the eggs, and probably gives

<sup>1</sup> De Geer, ii. 519.

that colour to the egg-bag to which I have adverted. The *Phryganeide* are stated by various authors to exclude their eggs in a mass. If they do so, that constant and repeated dipping to the surface after rising about a foot high, continued for a space of many yards according to the direction of the wind, must be merely a repetition of the attempt to disengage the mass of eggs until the last successful effort relieves the female from her burden. It is this motion of the female that I conceive, in some districts, has been the origin of the term "caperer" for some of the larger *Phryganeide*.

There is a striking difference in some respects between the habits of the *Ephemeride* and *Phryganeide*. The approach of the male to the female Ephemerid is sudden, and takes place on the wing, the contact being almost momentary. With the *Phryganeide* this is effected while on the sedge or grass, and they remain together for some hours; it even requires considerable force to disunite them.

Again, the object of the Ephemerid is to remain perfectly quiet while on the grass, and it is caught without difficulty. The *Phryganeid* is always upon the watch, and is difficult to catch if you put your hand in front of him. The only plan to make sure of him is to bring your fingers gradually behind his body, which generally succeeds except with the fly of a small black species, with long antennæ, which are always in motion, an insect so watchful and active, that it is almost impossible to make a prize of him.

Some of this class have a remarkable odour which, though not so unpleasant as that which the genus *Cimex* leaves upon the hand, is yet sufficiently disagreeable to give an occasional hint to a snuff-taker that Fribourg's or Pontel's happiest effort at high flavour is wholly destroyed by the previous application of the finger and thumb to some of the *Phryganeide*.

The Records of the Houghton Club enable me to furnish returns of the trout and grayling caught during each season from 1823 to 1833 inclusive; which show the advantage derived from the systematic preservation of rivers in increasing the stock of fish, and also afford some evidence of the gradual increase of size.

Return No. 1 gives separately the numbers of grayling and of trout caught in each year, with the total, as well as the average weight of each.

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No. 1.

| Year. | Number of Grayling. | Weight. |     | Average Weight of Grayling. |                  | Number of Trout. | Weight. |     | Average Weight of Trout. |                  |
|-------|---------------------|---------|-----|-----------------------------|------------------|------------------|---------|-----|--------------------------|------------------|
|       |                     | lb.     | oz. | lb.                         | oz.              |                  | lb.     | oz. | lb.                      | oz.              |
| 1823  | 31                  | 45      | 12  | 1                           | 7 $\frac{1}{2}$  | 111              | 154     | 14  | 1                        | 6 $\frac{1}{2}$  |
| 1824  | 12                  | 20      | 11  | 1                           | 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 85               | 131     | 12  | 1                        | 8 $\frac{1}{2}$  |
| 1825  | 120                 | 187     | 5   | 1                           | 9                | 202              | 348     | 1   | 1                        | 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| 1826  | 138                 | 224     | 8   | 1                           | 10               | 147              | 223     | 11  | 1                        | 8 $\frac{1}{2}$  |
| 1827  | 67                  | 113     | 14  | 1                           | 11               | 215              | 351     | 0   | 1                        | 10               |
| 1828  | 69                  | 127     | 1   | 1                           | 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 187              | 320     | 0   | 1                        | 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| 1829  | 102                 | 147     | 1   | 1                           | 7                | 109              | 188     | 5   | 1                        | 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| 1830  | 180                 | 255     | 1   | 1                           | 6 $\frac{1}{2}$  | 184              | 334     | 3   | 1                        | 13               |
| 1831  | 185                 | 264     | 2   | 1                           | 6 $\frac{1}{2}$  | 142              | 250     | 4   | 1                        | 12               |
| 1832  | 183                 | 286     | 2   | 1                           | 9                | 276              | 486     | 3   | 1                        | 12               |
| 1833  | 128                 | 212     | 1   | 1                           | 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 180              | 295     | 3   | 1                        | 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Total | 1215                | 1883    | 10  | 1                           | 8 $\frac{1}{2}$  | 1838             | 3083    | 8   | 1                        | 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ |

No. 2 shows the total number of trout and grayling, together with the total as well as the average weight of each.

No. 2.

| Year. | Total of Trout and Grayling. | Total Weight of Both. |     | Average Weight. |                  |
|-------|------------------------------|-----------------------|-----|-----------------|------------------|
|       |                              | lb.                   | oz. | lb.             | oz.              |
| 1823  | 142                          | 200                   | 10  | 1               | 6 $\frac{1}{2}$  |
| 1824  | 97                           | 152                   | 7   | 1               | 9                |
| 1825  | 322                          | 535                   | 6   | 1               | 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| 1826  | 285                          | 448                   | 3   | 1               | 9                |
| 1827  | 282                          | 464                   | 14  | 1               | 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| 1828  | 256                          | 447                   | 1   | 1               | 12               |
| 1829  | 211                          | 335                   | 6   | 1               | 9 $\frac{1}{2}$  |
| 1830  | 364                          | 589                   | 4   | 1               | 10               |
| 1831  | 327                          | 514                   | 6   | 1               | 9                |
| 1832  | 459                          | 772                   | 5   | 1               | 11               |
| 1833  | 308                          | 507                   | 4   | 1               | 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Total | 3053                         | 4967                  | 2   | 1               | 10               |



It appears by these returns, that the careful preservation of the water for eleven years has considerably increased the number of grayling, although it must be recollected that this fish is not the natural inhabitant of the river Test, as the following memorandum from the Club Book will testify, in the handwriting of Mr. Snow, who was for many years the intimate friend and associate of Mr. Tate, who had a fishing cottage at Longstock, to which he annually resorted in pursuit of his favourite amusement; for which object he first took the Longstock Fishery, and was the Founder of the Longstock Club.

"About the year 1816 Mr. Tate and Mr. Snow of Longstock sent John Haines (their Fisherman) to Heron Court to fetch twenty-five brace of Grayling given to them by Lord Malmesbury. Haines brought the fish in a water cart, and rested them in the Miller's Trunk at Romsey. One fish only died, and the survivors were put into the river Test at Longstock. They were small, not larger than four or five ounces each."

The Longstock Fishery in a few years became well stocked with grayling, but as the stock increased they gradually quitted that part of the river for the water below, and it is now some years since any have been taken above the town of Stockbridge.

At the present time, the place at which the grayling most abound is Houghton Shallows and the neighbourhood of them, about four miles below Longstock, a part of the river which appears peculiarly suited to the natural habits of this fish. It could not be expected (with reference to any deductions to be drawn from the returns here given) that in so short a period as from 1816 to 1823, the first year this return notices, the grayling should have been found in sufficient quantity to form a fair judgment of the effects of preservation; but putting out of the calculation the years 1823 and 1824, in which only 43 grayling were killed, and taking the next five years, 1825 to 1829 inclusive, we find the number to have been 496, while in the last four years the number amounted to 676; or the first seven years 539, and the last four 676.

It appears by a comparison of the average weight of grayling each year from 1823 to 1833 that a diminution, rather than an increase of average weight, has taken place. It is necessary, therefore, that the following allowance should be made in forming any judgment.

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In consequence of a wish to increase the stock, no small grayling were killed until the year 1829; but in that year, when the numbers had increased to a great extent, and when the members of the Club more frequently resorted to Stockbridge late in the year for the autumn fishing, killing grayling of one pound weight without reserve, from which they had heretofore generally abstained, a marked difference must of course occur in the average weight.

From the return No. 1 it will be found that in the six years ending 1828 the average had increased from 1 lb. 7½ oz. to 1 lb. 13½ oz., and although from the causes above mentioned it began to fall in 1829, being only 1 lb. 7 oz., and in 1830 to 1 lb. 6½ oz., yet in 1832 it rose to 1 lb. 9 oz., and in 1883 to 1 lb. 10½ oz., notwithstanding that in these two last years out of the whole number of 311 grayling, 108 of 1¼ lb. and under were killed.

On reference to No. 1 the following result is obtained :—

In the first seven years—Average Grayling 1 lb. 9¾ oz.  
 " Trout 1 " 10 "

|          |       |                             |
|----------|-------|-----------------------------|
| Grayling | . . . | 539—866 lb. 4 oz.           |
| Trout    | . . . | 1056—1717 " 11 "            |
|          |       | <u>1595—2583 lb. 15 oz.</u> |

In the last seven years—Average Grayling 1 lb. 8 oz.  
 " Trout 1 " 12 "

|          |       |                            |
|----------|-------|----------------------------|
| Grayling | . . . | 676—1017 lb. 6 oz.         |
| Trout    | . . . | 782—1365 " 13 "            |
|          |       | <u>1458—2383 lb. 3 oz.</u> |

Thus the number of grayling caught in the last four years exceeds that of the first seven years by 137, with an increase of weight of 151 lb. 2 oz., although the number of small grayling in the last four years was 298 and in the first seven only 179, according to the return No. 3.

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No. 3.

*Number of Fish during Eleven Years of 1 Lb. to 1½ Lb. Inclusive.*

| First Seven Years. |           |        |        | Last Four Years. |           |        |        |
|--------------------|-----------|--------|--------|------------------|-----------|--------|--------|
| Year.              | Grayling. | Trout. | Total. | Year.            | Grayling. | Trout. | Total. |
| 1823               | 16        | 64     | 80     | 1830             | 112       | 53     | 165    |
| 1824               | 1         | 27     | 28     | 1831             | 78        | 46     | 124    |
| 1825               | 50        | 40     | 90     | 1832             | 64        | 63     | 127    |
| 1826               | 33        | 56     | 89     | 1833             | 44        | 80     | 124    |
| 1827               | 21        | 31     | 72     |                  |           |        |        |
| 1828               | 13        | 36     | 49     |                  |           |        |        |
| 1829               | 45        | 28     | 73     |                  |           |        |        |
| Total .            | 179       | 302    | 481    | Total .          | 298       | 242    | 540    |

First seven years, total fish . . . . . 1595  
 Deduct small as above . . . . . 481

1114

Last four years, total fish . . . . . 1458  
 Deduct small . . . . . 540

918

Total small grayling . . . . . 179  
 298—477

Total small trout . . . . . 302  
 242—544

Total small fish . . . . . 1021

Total fish in eleven years . . . . . 3053  
 Deduct small fish . . . . . 1021

Total above 1½ lb. . . . . 2032

The above remarks refer principally to grayling; but the returns also show the great increase in the number of trout; for the average number of trout for the first seven years was only 150 per annum; while for the last four years it reached 195.

In estimating the general average according to No. 2, a decrease appears to have taken place in 1829, and since that period; but in fairness the circumstances detailed above in the remarks upon the grayling must be taken in consideration on the general average, since

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after the year 1828 numbers of trout as well as grayling have been killed, inasmuch as the large stock of fish admitted of fish of this size being consigned to the gridiron and frying-pan, not, as the reader might suppose, solely to gratify the criticising palates of the members of the Club, but with the more laudable motive of enabling them to send away the larger specimens of the produce of the Test as presents to distant friends.

The return No. 4 affords the best evidence of the progressive increase of size during the eleven years' preservation of the river.

## No. 4.

*Return of the Weight of the Twelve Largest Fish Caught in Each Year from 1823 to 1833 Inclusive, with Average Weight of Each Year.*

| 1823        | 1824        | 1825        | 1826        |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Lb. Oz.     | Lb. Oz.     | Lb. Oz.     | Lb. Oz.     |
| 3 0         | 2 2         | 3 4         | 2 15        |
| 2 1         | 2 1         | 5 1         | 2 15        |
| 2 4         | 2 6         | 3 1         | 2 12        |
| 2 0         | 3 8         | 3 8         | 2 8         |
| 2 3         | 2 3         | 3 0         | 2 10        |
| 2 1         | 2 6         | 3 1         | 2 10        |
| 2 1         | 2 2         | 3 2         | 2 9         |
| 2 0         | 2 4         | 2 15        | 2 9         |
| 2 0         | 2 4         | 2 13        | 2 10        |
| 2 0         | 2 3         | 2 13        | 2 12        |
| 2 9         | 2 2         | 2 13        | 2 12        |
| 2 6         | 2 8         | 2 13        | 2 8         |
| <u>26 9</u> | <u>28 1</u> | <u>38 5</u> | <u>32 2</u> |

Average, 2 lb. 3 oz.    Average, 2 lb. 5 oz.    Average, 3 lb. 3 oz.    Average, 2 lb. 10 oz.

| 1827        | 1828         | 1829         | 1830         |
|-------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Lb. Oz.     | Lb. Oz.      | Lb. Oz.      | Lb. Oz.      |
| 2 15        | 2 13         | 3 4          | ...          |
| 2 14        | 2 12         | 3 1          | 3 10         |
| 2 12        | 2 12         | 3 0          | 3 9          |
| 2 10        | 2 11         | 2 13         | 3 8          |
| 2 9         | 2 11         | 2 13         | 3 7          |
| 2 9         | 2 11         | 2 12         | 3 4          |
| 2 8         | 2 10         | 2 12         | 3 4          |
| 2 8         | 2 10         | 2 11         | 3 4          |
| 2 8         | 2 9          | 2 11         | 3 4          |
| 2 8         | 2 9          | 2 10         | 3 4          |
| 2 7         | 2 8          | 2 10         | 3 3          |
| 2 7         | 2 8          | 2 10         | 3 3          |
| <u>31 3</u> | <u>31 12</u> | <u>33 11</u> | <u>40 12</u> |

Average, 2 lb. 9 oz.    Average, 2 lb. 10 oz.    Nearly 2 lb. 13 oz.    Average, 3 lb. 6½ oz.



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| 1831         | 1832        | 1833         |
|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| Lb. Oz.      | Lb. Oz.     | Lb. Oz.      |
| 3 12         | 4 0         | 4 0          |
| 3 0          | 4 0         | 3 14         |
| 3 3          | 3 14        | 3 13         |
| 3 1          | 3 10        | 3 8          |
| 3 4          | 3 11        | 3 5          |
| 3 4          | 3 0         | 3 2          |
| 3 0          | 3 0         | 3 2          |
| 3 0          | 3 0         | 3 0          |
| 3 8          | 3 0         | 3 0          |
| 3 4          | 3 0         | 3 0          |
| 3 4          | 3 0         | 3 0          |
| 3 5          | 3 0         | 3 0          |
| <u>38 13</u> | <u>40 3</u> | <u>39 12</u> |

Average, 3 lb. 3 oz.      Average, 3 lb. 5 oz.      Average, 3 lb. 5 oz.

| In the First Seven Years.     |               | Last Four Years.         |              |
|-------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|--------------|
|                               | Lb. Oz.       |                          | Lb. Oz.      |
| 1823 . . . . .                | 26 9          | 1830 . . . . .           | 40 12        |
| 1824 . . . . .                | 28 1          | 1831 . . . . .           | 38 13        |
| 1825 . . . . .                | 38 4          | 1832 . . . . .           | 40 3         |
| 1826 . . . . .                | 32 2          | 1833 . . . . .           | 39 12        |
| 1827 . . . . .                | 31 3          |                          |              |
| 1828 . . . . .                | 31 12         |                          |              |
| 1829 . . . . .                | 33 11         |                          |              |
| Total fish, 84; weight .      | <u>221 10</u> | Total fish, 48; weight . | <u>159 8</u> |
| Average, barely 2 lb. 10½ oz. |               | Average, 3 lb. 5½ oz.    |              |

It must be recollected, however, that these statements being deduced from a record kept only for comparatively so short a period, may not afford conclusive proof of similar results from a comparison of the details for the ten years that may follow, because so many circumstances affect and interfere with the best-grounded hopes of sport—and the much-desired object of a *really good fishing season* is so rarely attained, that much variation must occur in all returns kept in fisheries, although they are strictly attended to and preserved. To prove this. In eleven seasons the Houghton Club have only been fortunate enough to experience one, which was in 1825; and a reference to that year will show the effect of favourable weather, for the number of fish and the general average is not only greater than the two preceding, but also than the four following years, and the average weight of the twelve largest fish in 1825 is as great as in 1831, and is only exceeded by 1830, 1832, and 1833. [Here follow three paragraphs which will be found as extracts on pp. 50, 51.—Ed.]

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It is my belief, that the general feeding of fish depends more upon temperature than any other cause; and I am strengthened in this observation from the details, given in another part of my subject, which more properly belong to hot water ponds, to which I beg to refer in further elucidation.

The increase of large fish is more fully proved by reference to the Club Book, and seeing what fish of 3 lb. and upwards have been caught since the establishment of the Club it will be found in—

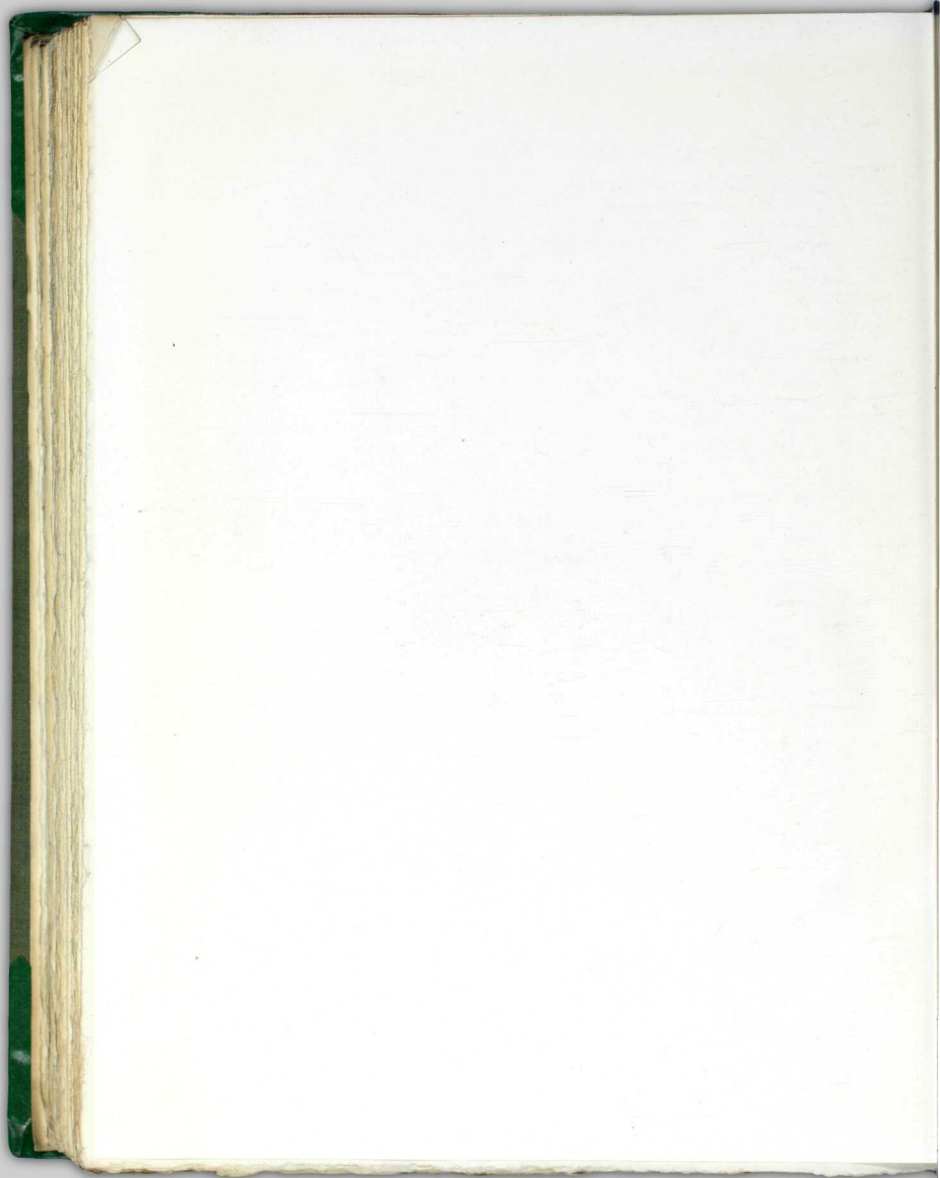
|                                     |        |                                    |         |
|-------------------------------------|--------|------------------------------------|---------|
| 1823 . . . . .                      | 1 fish | 1830 . . . . .                     | 21 fish |
| 1824 . . . . .                      | 1 "    | 1831 . . . . .                     | 13 "    |
| 1825 . . . . .                      | 7 "    | 1832 . . . . .                     | 12 "    |
| 1826 . . . . .                      | ...    | 1833 . . . . .                     | 13 "    |
| 1827 . . . . .                      | ...    | Total for four years . . . 59 fish |         |
| 1828 . . . . .                      | ...    |                                    |         |
| 1829 . . . . .                      | 3 "    |                                    |         |
| Total for seven years . . . 12 fish |        |                                    |         |

The remarks I have made of the uncertainty of the feeding of the large fish is confirmed by the above statement, as it will be observed that in the first seven years out of twelve fish seven were caught in 1825, which was a favourable season, and in the last four years twenty-one large fish in 1830.

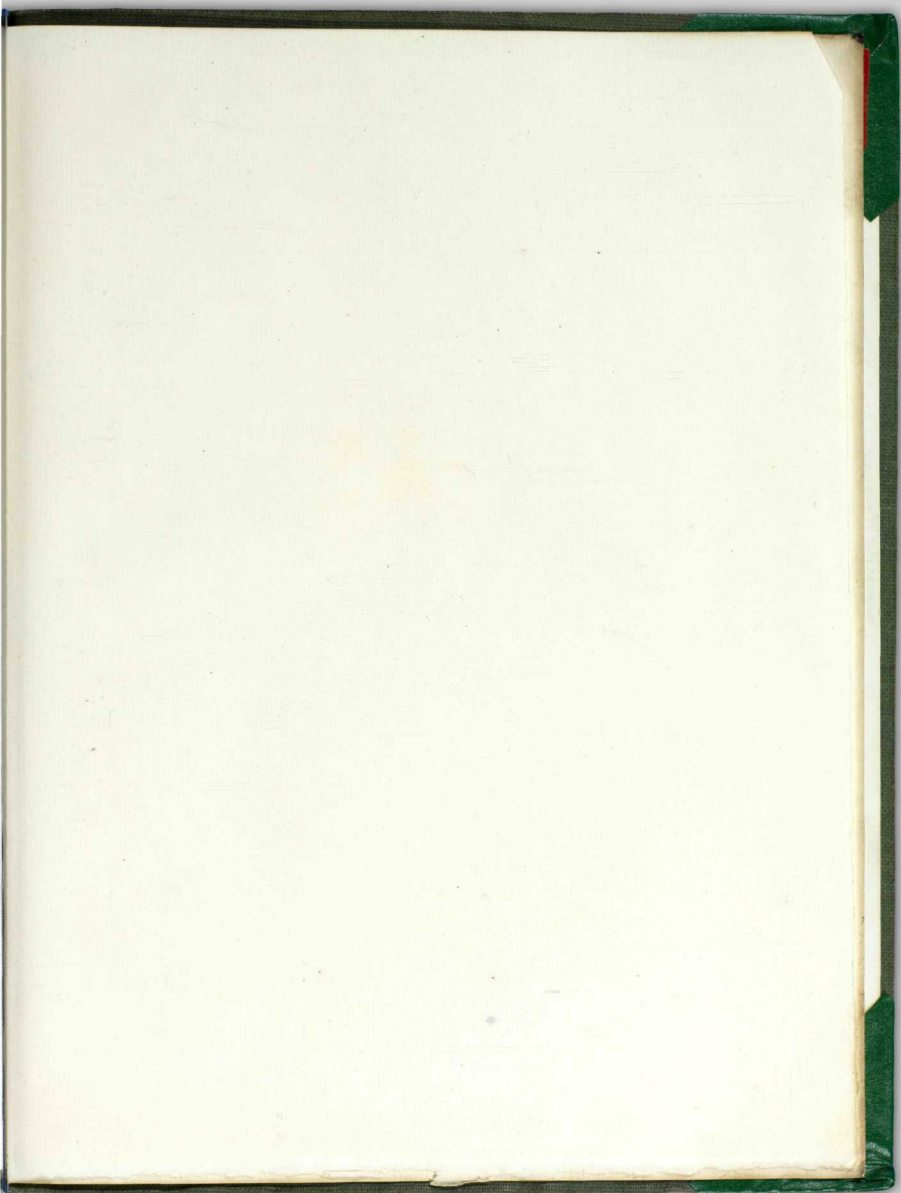
It is this uncertainty which induces many gentlemen anglers to suppose that, when the large fish are not caught or seen to rise, the stock is decreased, and that the poachers have been at work. Suspicion is excited, and inquiry instituted; the honesty of the keeper is called in question, and his character and his feelings are equally injured. Let those gentlemen study the habits of fish and record their observations from year to year, and I am certain that their good sense and the exercise of their reason will induce them to form a very different conclusion.

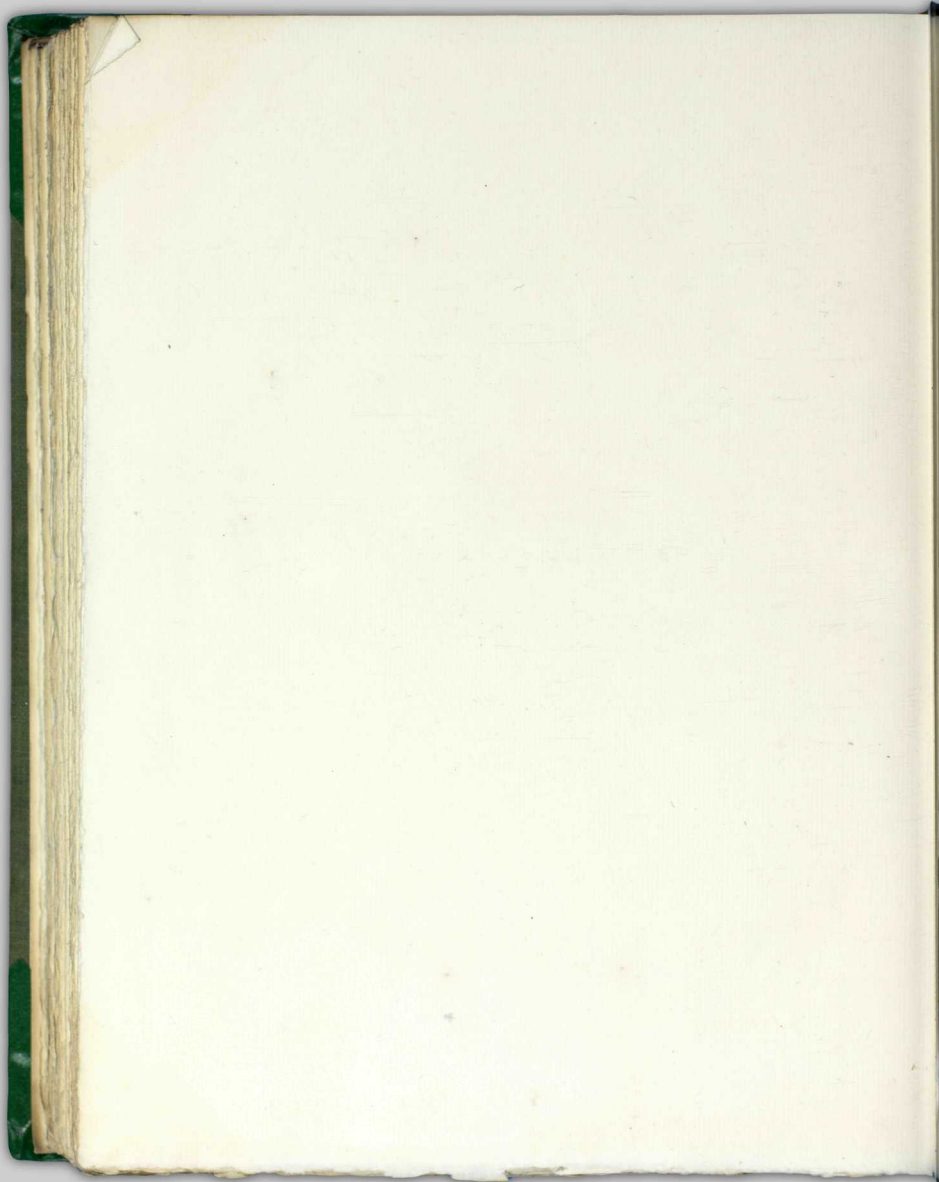


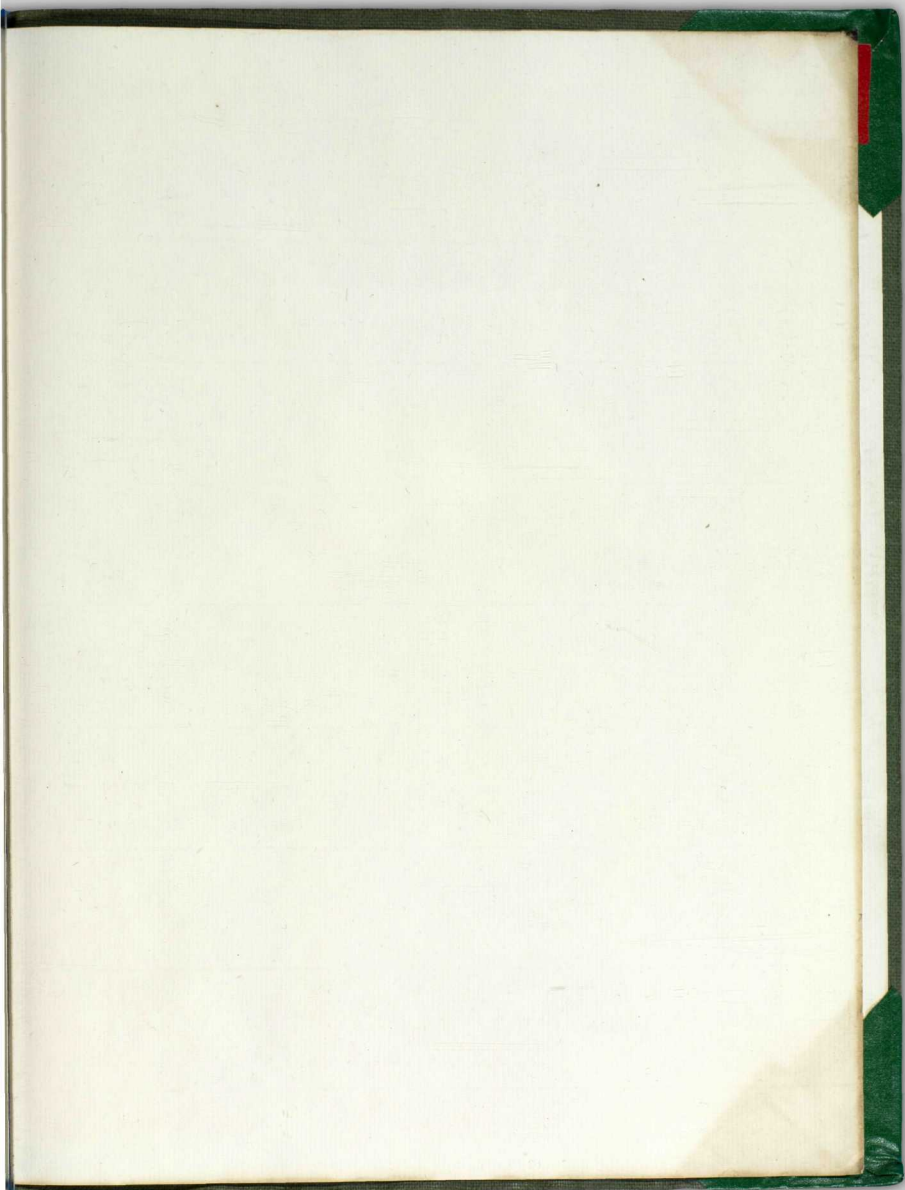
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