

ANGLING

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Angling by Francis Francis

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FRANCIS FRANCIS

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BY

FRANCIS FRANCIS,

Author of "A Book on Angling," &c. &c.

"I care not a jot,
I envy no lot,
So I have a rod and can fish."

SECOND EDITION.

LONDON: HORACE COX, 346, STRAND, W.C.

1883.

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Preface to the Second Edition.

In producing a second edition of this work I have no great changes to announce. I have endeavoured to perfect the instructions as to bottom fishing, though there has been no very striking improvement worth note of late years, and I have striven to simplify somewhat the rudiments to young anglers taking to trout fishing. The size and shape of the first edition was somewhat awkward for the convenience of carriage, and that I have seen fit to alter accordingly.

FRANCIS FRANCIS.

The Firs, Twickenham,
1883.

M846463

Preface to the First Edition.

EVERY book should have a *raison d'être*, and it might be thought by some persons superfluous that I should have written another and a less comprehensive work after having written a book which contains so full an account of the art in every branch as "A Book on Angling," published by Messrs. Longman, and now in its fourth edition. The popularity which that work has attained might very well satisfy all my desires, but I have been told many times that my "Book on Angling" has not touched a very large class of anglers comprehended in those who cannot afford to pay so much as 15s. for a guide to their favourite amusement. Owing to the manner in which "A Book on Angling" is got up, and the expense incurred in producing the coloured plates—all of which are of necessity done by hand—there was no possibility of bringing it within the means of the large body of anglers whom I have referred to, and I have been asked again and again to write a book of a somewhat less extensive nature and without the coloured plates, or the long list of salmon flies contained in my first work. I have now yielded to this demand, and I trust that the present work may fulfil the requirements of the persons for whom it is written.

A reviewer of my "Book on Angling" lately, in the

course of what was upon the whole a very favourable and even kind review, in one of the principal morning papers, said that I was rather opinionated—in saying which he stated neither more nor less than the truth, and I plead guilty to the charge; for, in writing books on angling, I have endeavoured to write them as far as possible from my own experience, and to avoid, as far as I could, giving a mere *réchauffé* from old angling works. Indeed, I have striven to borrow as little as possible from any one, merely giving what I know to be the ordinary methods and practices in vogue as regards the sport of angling in these later times. I hardly see how a person endeavouring to do this could be other than opinionated. The question appears to me to be, not whether I am opinionated, but whether the opinions I have expressed are the best that the angler can follow. Now I take upon me to say that I have endeavoured to give the best methods and plans of angling, and that, in doing so, I never have hesitated—and I should take shame to myself if I had—to give full credit to the authors of those plans for their inventions, be they whom they may; and, in doing so, I venture even further to say, that I have often taken hints from brother anglers where their ideas appeared good, and given them the credit of them, but with whom on many other points I have no sympathy or agreement whatever. Where I have been able to speak solely from my own experience, and where that has seemed to me the best to draw from, I have not hesitated to do so. No doubt it would have been far easier for me to have said Izaak Walton says so and so, Salter recommends this, Ronald advises that, and “Ephemera” the other. But angling has made large strides since the days of those writers; and though in many instances their experience and advice still stands

good, yet in many others it is simply obsolete and useless. In the present book, with very few exceptions, I have drawn almost entirely from my own stores. The tackle from my box, which I constantly use, and the flies from my books which I find the most killing, I have simply taken and described, and, consequently, in this book I fear I shall be found more opinionated than ever; but if any one will show me a better rod, line, tackle, or fly, than any I recommend, and I find on trial that it is so, I shall never be slow to adopt it, and to recognise not only its usefulness, but the services rendered by the inventor to the cause of angling. For I trust, whenever I am called upon to lay down the pen, that no man will ever be able to say, "He did not act fairly either to his contemporaries or to those he drew his information from;" for that I hold to be one of the most disgraceful charges which can be brought against an author. But if I strive to behave fairly to others, I can hardly be blamed if I am tenacious of my own rights. In angling, as in all other matters, one cannot do better than stick to the Church Catechism, and to "do to all men as you would they should do unto you;" and I think that any author who has adopted and striven to carry out this motto purely and simply, may look back on his career without regret.

FRANCIS FRANCIS.

The Firs, Twickenham,
1877.

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