

**ESSAYS: THE  
COMPLEAT  
ANGLER**

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Essays: The compleat angler by Izaak Walton

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ESSAYS

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BY ANDREW LANG

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& BY IZAAK  
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A decorative, hand-drawn frame with ornate scrollwork and floral motifs at the top and bottom. Inside the frame, the text "Introduction, by Andrew Lang" is written in a cursive script.

Introduction,  
by Andrew Lang

To write on Walton is, indeed, to hold a candle to the sun. The editor has been content to give a summary of the chief, or rather the only known, events in Walton's long life, adding a notice of his character as displayed in his *Biographies* and in *The Compleat Angler*, with comments on the ancient and modern practice of fishing, illustrated by passages from Walton's foregoers and contemporaries. Like all editors of Walton, he owes much to his predecessors, Sir John Hawkins, Oldys, Major, and, above all, to the learned Sir Harris Nicolas. The text here reprinted is, in the main, that of Sir Harris Nicolas, which was printed from Walton's Fifth Edition, 1676, the last that was revised by the author.