

**THE ANGLER'S INSTRUCTOR. A
TREATISE ON THE BEST MODES OF
ANGLING IN ENGLISH RIVERS,
LAKES, AND PONDS AND ON THE
HABITS OF THE FISH**

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The Angler's Instructor. A Treatise on the Best Modes of Angling in English Rivers, Lakes, and Ponds and on the Habits of the Fish by William Bailey

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WILLIAM BAILEY

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THE
ANGLER'S INSTRUCTOR

A TREATISE
ON THE BEST MODES OF ANGLING

IN
ENGLISH RIVERS, LAKES, AND PONDS

AND
ON THE HABITS OF THE FISH

BY
WILLIAM BAILEY, NOTTINGHAM

LONDON
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PREFACE.

SINCE the days of good old Izaak, the common father, figuratively speaking, of all piscators, the art of Angling has improved to such a degree that his "Complete Angler,"—although it does, and shall ever, occupy a prominent position in English literature for the purity of its style—is not now regarded as a "guide, philosopher, and friend" in matters relating to the gentle craft. In fact, the book has long been considered as affording more amusement than instruction; and during the two hundred years that have elapsed since Walton wrote, many works have appeared to correct the errors which he fell into, and to disseminate, what the writers conceived to be, a better and more reliable knowledge of the art. In the belief that many of these have promulgated unsound views, and that the piscatorial directions given by them are generally erroneous, I have ventured to submit to the public,

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in the following pages, the opinions which, after upwards of twenty years practical experience as an Angler, I have formed as to fish and fishing. I have, indeed, made it the business of my life to study the habits of fresh-water fish, and to devise the best means of Angling for them at all seasons of the year, and in every condition of the water,—so that the sentiments which I have expressed in this work are not founded on theory, but based on long, careful, and diligent personal observation. Unfortunately, I am no scholar—I am but a “plain blunt man”—and make no pretensions whatever to having written in a pleasing and attractive style. If I have succeeded in making myself understood, I have done as much as I expected to be able to perform in a literary way.

I hope the contents of the book will be found to justify the title which I have adopted for it. I have described the habits of the fish—pointed out their haunts at the various seasons of the year—the best baits to use for taking them, and when, how, and where they should be Angled for. I have shown what rods, reels, lines, and tackles should be used in Angling for the different fish; and, in short, I have given such instructions, and laid down such rules as, I think, if attended to, cannot fail to make a good Angler of the most inapt scholar.

It will be observed that the Salmon is not among the fish that I have treated of. Although I have had so many years experience

as an Angler, and have killed every fish of any note common to our rivers, lakes, and ponds, I have never had opportunities of fishing for the King of fresh-waters, and hence the want of any allusion to that fish in the following pages. Those who desire to become acquainted with the style of Angling for Salmon, cannot do better than consult the admirable treatises on this fish by "Ephemera," of *Bell's Life*. With these few words I commit the "ANGLER'S INSTRUCTOR" to the favor of my friends, and, if I have any, to the merciful consideration of my enemies.

Nottingham, 1st September, 1857.

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