

**THE TROUT FLY DRESSER'S  
CABINET OF DEVICES OR  
HOW TO TIE FLIES FOR TROUT  
AND GRAYLING FISHING**

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The Trout Fly Dresser's Cabinet of Devices or How to Tie Flies for Trout and Grayling Fishing  
by H. G. McClelland

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**H. G. MCCLELLAND**

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THE LATE MR. H. G. McCLELLAND  
("ATHENIAN.")

THE TROUT FLY DRESSER'S  
CABINET OF DEVICES

OR

HOW TO TIE FLIES

FOR

TROUT AND GRAYLING FISHING.

BY THE LATE

H. <sup>Henry</sup>G. McCLELLAND

(*"Athenian" of the "Fishing Gazette"*).

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WITH EIGHTY ILLUSTRATIONS.

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## PREFATORY NOTE.

(From the *Fishing Gazette*, July 23, 1898.)

THE LATE MR. HARRY McCLELLAND.

("ATHENIAN," OF THE *Fishing Gazette*).

As promised in a footnote to the graceful little tribute to his memory, which I published last week, from "Val Conson," I now give a portrait\* of "Athenian," whose articles on "Trout Fly Dressing" have been appearing in the *Fishing Gazette* at intervals during the past fifteen months or so. The series was so nearly complete that he had written part of the last article, with a sadly double meaning in its title, viz., "Parting Observations and Hints."

Having been struck with the novelty, soundness, and originality of letters on fly dressing which appeared in these columns from "Athenian," I, two or three years ago, invited him to do a series of illustrated articles on the subject, and he took the matter up with great enthusiasm. I never had the pleasure to meet "Athenian," but live in hopes of meeting him and many other keen anglers on the banks of good streams in the next world. But I had a long and pleasant correspondence with "Athenian," and always found him most courteous, and ready to fall in with

\* The portrait forms the frontispiece of this little volume.  
—R. B. M.

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suggestions. His articles were eagerly looked for by all who take more than a superficial interest in fly dressing, and certainly deserve the very high praise given them by "Val Conson," than whom there is no better judge living, and I cannot do better than reproduce his note here.

#### DEATH OF "ATHENIAN."

DEAR MARSTON.—You have doubtless received from the family of the contributor who wrote in your pages over the singularly appropriate name of "Athenian" the announcement of his death. It was only in correspondence, both private and in your columns, I had to do with him; but I should like to say this, that in him the art of fly dressing has lost, at a very early age, probably the most prolific, ingenious, and inventive intellect of the century. He was always eager to hear and to tell some new thing, and the new thing he told was nearly always of his own discovery. In controversy he was always a fair and courteous opponent, and as a correspondent he was generous to a degree in his communication of what he thought would interest or help.

Thus, though I never had the pleasure of meeting him, his early death touches me with a sense of personal loss, in which you, I feel sure, will share, and I should like, as one of the many readers of the *Fishing Gazette* who has had the benefit of perusing his singularly clear and exhaustive contributions, to testify, through your columns, to those he leaves behind him how warmly we appreciated him and how sincerely we deplore his loss.—Very truly yours,

VAL CONSON.

It was Sunday, July 3, 1898, that my correspondent died; and his brother, Mr. Herbert S. McClelland, in sending me the news on July 7, said:

"My dear brother, who has been writing under the name of 'Athenian' in your paper, passed away on Sunday last. It is exactly six years since he and I came home from school, before the



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end of the term, owing to the illness which attacked his lungs, and rendered him very weak and unfit for work, though at times, sometimes for months, he rallied in a wonderful way, and looked and felt quite well. About a fortnight ago, when he realised that he was dying, he asked that I should write to you and send the part of his last article which he had written, together with some notes intended to be embodied in it, and request you to get it finished for him, and have it published in the *Fishing Gazette*, so that when you published the series of articles in book form, as arranged, this one might appear also."

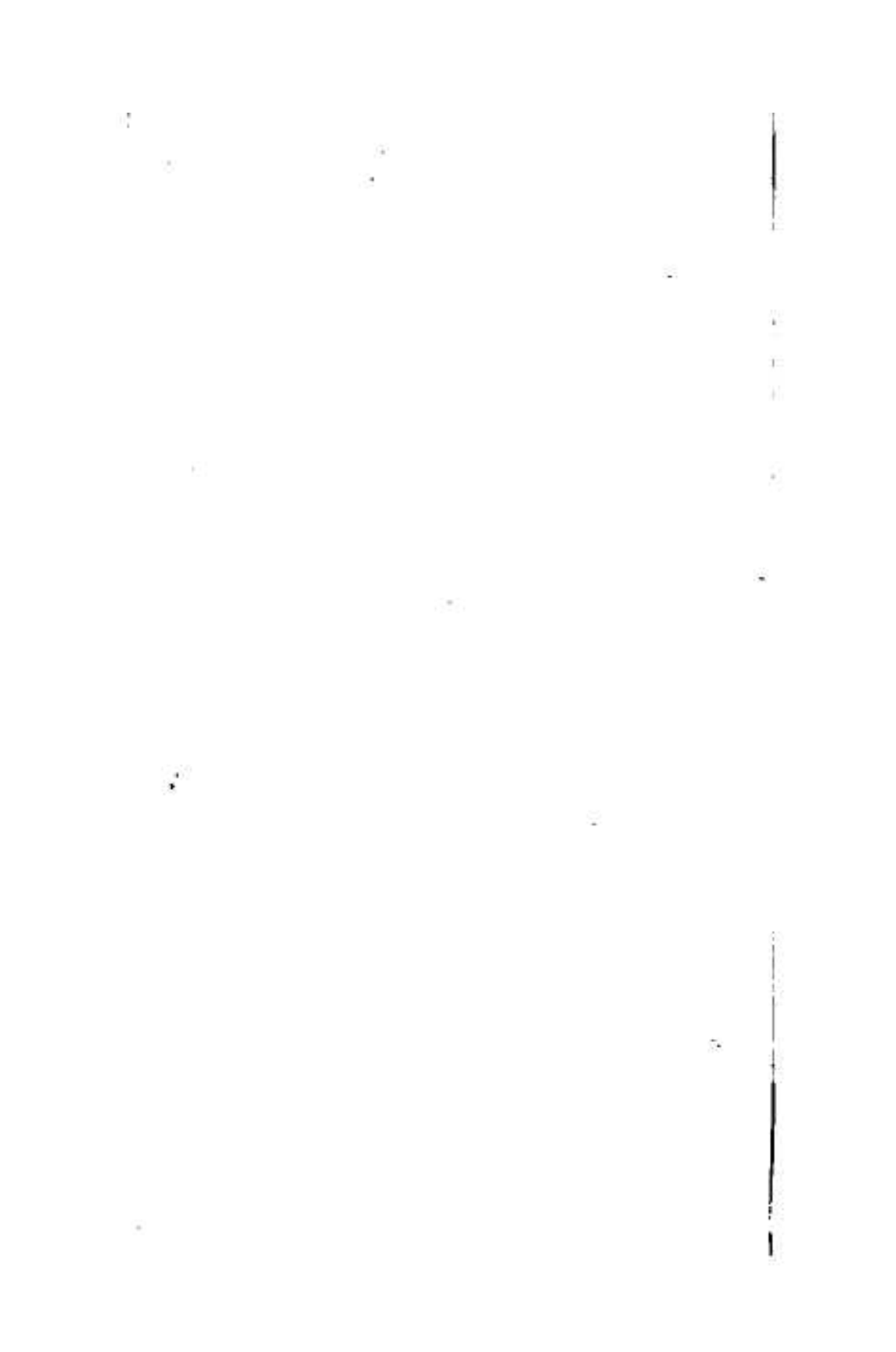
Of course, I was glad to promise that this should be done, and hope that "Val Conson" will kindly add the few words that are all that seem necessary to complete the chapter.

During my long connection with this paper, the only sad part of it has been this recording the loss of friends and contributors. It is doubly sad when the record is of a bright young fellow cut off "just when the doors of manhood were opening to him. . . . Like the flowers which covered his coffin, his young life exhaled a fragrance that will linger long in the hearts of those who knew him best."

What we fly fishers have lost in him has been well and truly said in the letter I have quoted above from "Val Conson."

R. B. MARSTON

(Editor, *Fishing Gazette*).



# HOW TO TIE FLIES

FOR

TROUT AND GRAYLING FISHING.

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## INTRODUCTION.

It is, perhaps, unnecessary that I should here dwell on the advantages which a knowledge of fly dressing gives to the angler, since it is to be expected that they are already known and felt by those who read these lines. At the same time such a course seems natural, and—with the reader's pardon—its adoption gets me out of the difficulty of knowing how to open up my subject.

Every angler for trout will admit that the qualities which go to make one successful in his craft are judgment, skill, and knowledge of the trout's habits and powers, and of the insects on which he feeds; and are not these the very qualities which go to make a successful fly dresser, and which are developed in the practice of the art? It is true that fly fishing and fly dressing each require a fair amount of manipulative skill proper to themselves; but they are at least so closely connected that a man, with some practical knowledge of the one, will have many advantages on his side when entering on the other—not only utilitarian advantages, either,