

**THE SCIENTIFIC ANGLER.
BEING A GENERAL
AND INSTRUCTIVE WORK
ON ARTISTIC ANGLING**

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The scientific angler. Being a general and instructive work on artistic angling by David Foster & Wm. C. Harris

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DAVID FOSTER & WM. C. HARRIS

**THE SCIENTIFIC ANGLER.
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BEING A

General and Instructive Work on Artistic Angling.

BY THE LATE

DAVID FOSTER.

COMPILED BY HIS SONS, AND EDITED BY

WM. C. HARRIS,

EDITOR OF THE "AMERICAN ANGLER."

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THE EDITOR'S PREFACE.



David Foster, the author of "The Scientific Angler," was born at Burton-on-Trent, England, September 22d, 1815, and at the date of his recent death, was known wherever a salmon, trout or grayling fly is thrown in the kingdom of Great Britain, as the Izaak Walton of the nineteenth century. This angling patronymic, joined to that of "Old David," by which he was more familiarly known, indicates the esteem and affection in which he was held by English lovers of the angle. He was certainly one of the most observant and practical rodsters that England, where the cultured angler is an artist, has ever produced. The book before us is an attestation of this fact.

My province, as editor, has been confined to foot notes, more or less copious, in which I have endeavored to make plain to the American reader the angling phrases, terms and tackle used in England, giving, so far as practicable, American analogues of the English fish. The text of the author remains untouched, with the exception of the exclusion of a few paragraphs on

fishing for barbel, bream, and tench, and the chapter on fish culture—the reader would have found in the former but little of value, and the latter is far behind the present advanced status of fish culture in America.

It will be noted that the foot notes, which are all my own, are free from critical comments on the author's views; from which I have designedly abstained, although not a few paragraphs of the text are in conflict with the approved practice of the best American anglers.

WM. C. HARRIS.

NEW YORK, 1883.

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THE SCIENTIFIC ANGLER.

CHAPTER I.

THE HABITS AND HAUNTS OF FISH.

POWER OF VISION, HEARING, ETC., POSSESSED BY FISH.* PERIODIC MOVEMENTS AND HABITS OF SALMON, BROWN TROUT, CHARR, GRAYLING, AND PIKE.

The habits of fish depend in no small degree on the power of their senses, and to these we will briefly allude before dealing with the subject in detail. The first faculty to claim our attention is that of

SIGHT.—The clearness with which a grayling, lying

* The subject of the senses of fishes is the cause of much curious comment and speculation among angling naturalists, who do not willingly consent that the class *Pisces* shall be placed upon a plane below that of the insects. The belief that fishes possess qualities which reach a standard beyond the instinct of self-preservation has recently gained in strength and interest, owing to the increased facilities that fish culture has given us to observe their habits. It is conceded by naturalists that certain insects, and many of the lower animals, have the power of imparting mutual intelligence by processes unknown to us. The little ants hobnobbing with each other; the cooing dove wooing its mate vocally; the hen clucking her brood under protecting wings, are familiar instances of vocal intercourse among insects and birds, and no one who has watched the minnows of a shallow pool, has failed to see equally sure indications that fishes have a way of their own in communicating with each other. I have often seen them dart swiftly towards each other, putting nose to nose, and in a moment or two scull leisurely away with what looked to me like a self-congratulatory flirt of the tail, as if the matter communicated was of the utmost importance to fish life in general.