

**SPRING-TIDE; OR,
THE ANGLER AND
HIS FRIENDS**

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Spring-tide; or, The angler and his friends by John Yonge Akerman

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JOHN YONGE AKERMAN

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BY
JOHN YONGE AKERMAN.

Lord, who would live turmoiled in the court,
And may enjoy such quiet walks as these?
SHAKESPEARE, *K. Henry VI.*



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PREFACE DEDICATORY.

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TO
JOHN HUGHES, ESQUIRE,
OF
DONNINGTON PRIORY,
IN THE COUNTY OF BERKS.

MY DEAR SIR,

To you, as a kind friend whose streams I have often fished, and of whose hospitality I have as often partaken,—to you, as the preserver and restorer of “Owld Grumbleton,” I have ventured to inscribe this little volume.

Other reasons, however, induce me to make free with your name. Your fondness for the remains of that dialect which I have here incidentally attempted to vindicate and illustrate, is well known,—a

fondness inseparable from attachment to the homely race by whom it is still used.

My hints on Fly-fishing contain, I fear, little that is not already known to the practical Angler, and may only serve as a guide to those who may be tempted to pursue one of the most delightful of field-sports, which, of old time, the Ecclesiastical Canons did not deny even to the Clergy.

Some of our countrymen may, perhaps, derive half an hour's amusement from those portions of the dialogue in which I have attempted to defend from the charge of utter vulgarity, the language of the rustic population of the Southern and Western parts of England. That among an unlettered race there should be much in their speech which may be denominated vulgar, is unquestionably true; but there are also a great number of words and phrases which

are as certainly the remains of an old tongue once used in England even by the educated. This dialect has greatly changed, and is still changing, and we may both live to find that it is destined to undergo a still further mutation.

It appears from Higden, whose Chronicle was written in the 14th century, that in his days the people of the West of England could understand the language of their countrymen in the Eastern parts of the Island, but that the men of the South actually could not understand those of the North. He instances especially the dialect of Yorkshire, which he describes as grating and uncouth in the extreme.* Caxton, in his edition of Trevisa's "Polychronicon" (A. D. 1482), modernized the language and adapted it to his time:—"Therefore I, William Caxton, a symple person, have

* *Tota lingua Northumbrorum, maxime in Eboraco, ita stridet incondita.*—*Lib. i.*