

**THE LIFE OF A SALMON. THE
AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF THE LATE SALMO
SALAR, ESQ. COMPOSING A NARRATIVE
OF THE LIFE, PERSONAL ADVENTURES,
AND DEATH OF A TWEED SALMON**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649356461

The life of a Salmon. The Autobiography of the Late Salmo Salar, Esq. Composing a narrative of the life, personal adventures, and death of a tweed Salmon by George Rooper

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

GEORGE ROOPER

**THE LIFE OF A SALMON. THE
AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF THE LATE SALMO
SALAR, ESQ. COMPOSING A NARRATIVE
OF THE LIFE, PERSONAL ADVENTURES,
AND DEATH OF A TWEED SALMON**

✓

THE LIFE OF A SALMON.

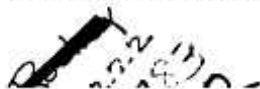


P R E F A C E .

THE following pages, embodying the result of long experience as a fisherman and careful observation as a lover of Nature, are intended by the Author to convey, in the simple and familiar form of personal narrative, some knowledge of the natural history and habits of that most interesting fish, the SALMON, and some hints as to the mode of capturing him with the artificial fly.

The Author is not vain enough to suppose that he can teach the naturalist or practised fisherman anything he did not know before ; but he ventures to hope that, whilst to the tyro some of the facts set forth, and some of the maxims insisted on, may prove both novel and instructive, the incidents recorded and the localities described may awaken in the breast of both naturalist and

(RECAP)



fisherman pleasant reminiscences of pleasant days passed in that most fascinating of pursuits—Salmon-Fishing. Possibly some of the “dodges” recorded by Salmo Salar may have been practised, successfully or otherwise, upon themselves. The Writer has had experience of each and all.

The “Autobiography” originally appeared in “Macmillan’s Magazine.” It has since been to some extent remodelled and considerably enlarged; and it is now, by kind permission, with diffidence presented to the public. Should it have the good fortune to meet with approval, it is the intention of the Author to supplement it by a sister sketch of the Hunting Field, under the title of “A Fox’s Tale.”

CONTENTS.

CHAPTER I.

- The Salmon's nest.—Her countless eggs.—Birth of embryo.—Provision of Nature for its sustenance Page 1

CHAPTER II.

- Dangers to which the young fish are exposed.—Their chief enemies.—Pisciculture.—The Smolt's first peril and escape 4

CHAPTER III.

- Tweed in flood.—Disastrous effects.—The Smolt assumes his silvery coat, and descends the river 11

CHAPTER IV.

- His capture and return to the water.—Suggested solution of the "Parr" question.—Water Bailiffs 17

CHAPTER V.

- Life in "the Ocean Wave."—Food and growth of the Smolt.—New enemies.—Desire to revisit the river.—Its cause 24

CHAPTER VI.

- The "Smolt" returns a "Grilse."—His reception at the river's mouth.—Again escapes capture *Page 30*
-

CHAPTER VII.

- Roe-fishing an unsportsmanlike pursuit.—Its injurious effects on trout and salmon.—Mode of fishing with roe described 34
-

CHAPTER VIII.

- Meets with a companion.—Commences the ascent of the river.—Hooked, but once more escapes 38
-

CHAPTER IX.

- Kelts.—Brig-end Pool.—Capture of the Kelt ... 47
-

CHAPTER X.

- Hints to Young Fishermen 55
-

CHAPTER XI.

- Murder of the "Baggit."—The gaff.—Mystery explained.—Conclusion 63

AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF
THE LATE SALMO SALAR, ESQ.

CHAPTER I.

I volunteer the story of my life, and commence it before
I was born.

“ I WAS born, or rather——”

“ Bless my heart !” said I, somewhat startled,
“ *who are you ? How did you get here ?*”

No wonder I was surprised. I had just quitted the Edinburgh station of the Caledonian Railway, and, with the accustomed selfish liberality of a young man, I had bribed the guard to lock me up in a compartment to myself, in spite of which I now found myself accosted, without preface or apology, by a queer-looking old gentleman, dressed in a straw-coloured paletôt, with a short pipe in his mouth, sitting, with his legs tucked under him, on the opposite

seat to mine, as much at his ease, apparently, as if he had as much right there as I, who had paid two - and - sixpence for the privilege of appropriating six seats to myself.

“Or rather——” he proceeded.

“I really must beg, sir,” I began; but somehow his manner overawed me, as it were, into listening. I felt like the wedding-guest in the presence of the Ancient Mariner. He went on in the same tone, without noticing me, or even taking his pipe out of his mouth.

“Or rather, I struggled into existence, for the egg from which I sprang had lain, with countless others, for well-nigh four months previously in one of the tributary streams of the Upper Tweed. My life, if life it could be called, had hitherto been a dreamy, monotonous, uneventful one, a gleam of sunshine quickening my pulse and increasing the natural yearning I felt for release and liberty, a passing cloud or a chill wind driving me back to somnolency and partial oblivion. But now the garish beams of the late February sun had called me forth into a new world, and I felt myself, with a proud sense of independence, launched, free from trammels and control, upon that wild waste of