

**THE PRACTICAL FLY-
FISHER; MORE
PARTICULARLY FOR
GRAYLING OR UMBER**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649396481

The Practical Fly-fisher; More Particularly for Grayling Or Umber by John Jackson

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

JOHN JACKSON

**THE PRACTICAL FLY-
FISHER; MORE
PARTICULARLY FOR
GRAYLING OR UMBER**

THE
PRACTICAL FLY-FISHER;

MORE PARTICULARLY FOR

GRAYLING OR UMBER.

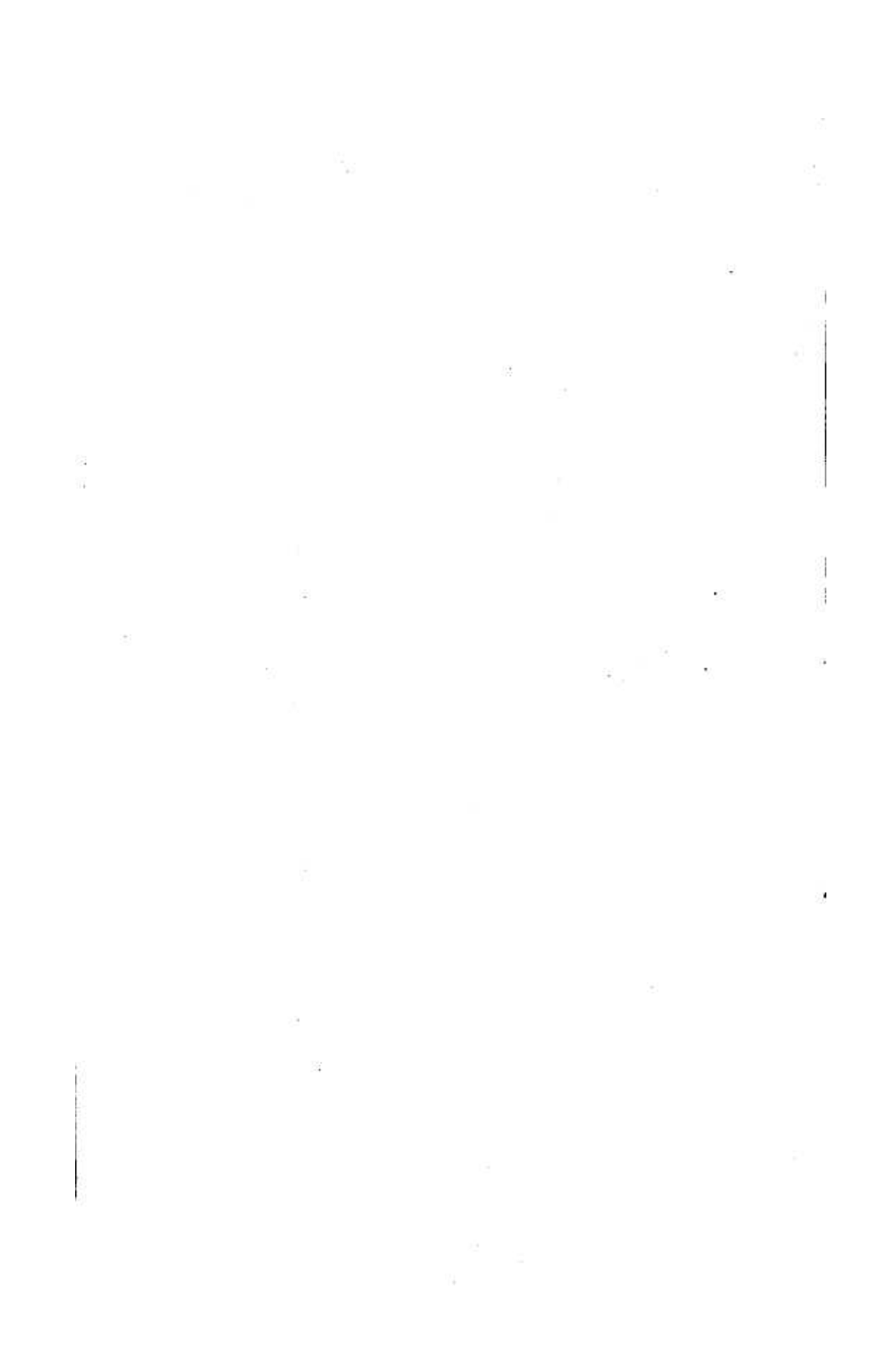
BY THE LATE
JOHN JACKSON,
OF TANFIELD MILL.

Entered at Sta. Hall.

Price,
With Coloured Plates, 7s. 6d.
Plain, - - - 5s.

LONDON:
CHARLES FARLOW, 191, STRAND.
LEEDS: J. SWALLOW, 71, KIRKGATE.

1854.



SH456
J28

To T. H. B., Esq.

ESTEEMED FRIEND,

IN compliance with your desire, and at the solicitation of several kind friends, I am induced to attempt laying down a few observations, the result of long experience in Fly-Fishing; more especially in that department of the "gentle art" which relates to Grayling or Umber.

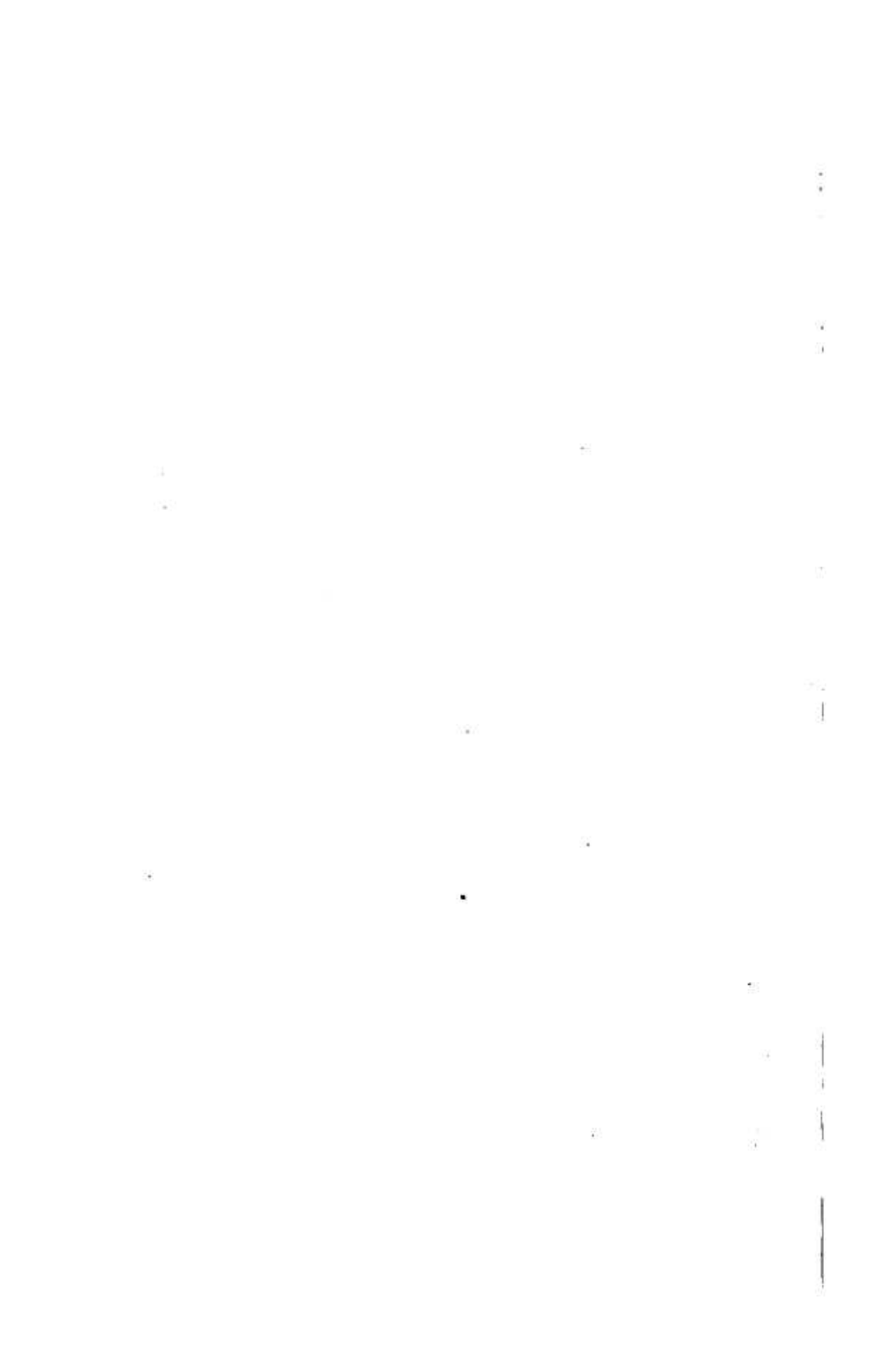
Should any information I may be able to give, add to your previous knowledge, or contribute to your future pleasure, I shall be highly gratified.

Yours truly,

J. JACKSON.

TANFIELD MILL,
MAY, 1853.

M844840



THE
PRACTICAL FLY-FISHER.

Our residence on the River Yore, which is decidedly a Grayling stream, long since drew my attention more especially to that dainty fish; and I have marked with the greatest satisfaction, the rising reputation of that inhabitant of our silvery flood during the last few years.

We are told that the "Monks of old," renowned as well for good cheer, as charitable deeds, and noble works, introduced the Grayling to the streams near their principal residences; which appears probable, as it is in perfection when the Trout is out of season. I admire their taste, and respect their memory for the legacy they left.

The fact of the Grayling being in season for some months when the Trout is scarcely fit for table, and the readiness with which it rises at the fly, renders it, in my opinion, particularly worthy of the Fly-fisher's notice; and although not so gamesome as the Trout, yet in the Summer and Autumn, its weight and strength, with the tenderness of its mouth, render it, perhaps, a more difficult fish to take, than even its more resolute brother, the Trout.

The Grayling is certainly a very moderate dish for "Un Grand Gourmand" at the time of spawning, which

is generally about the last ten days in March, or the first ten in April; at which time none should be killed; but the rapidity with which it at that time feeds, enables it in a very short time to give the angler its full share of sport.

In angling for Grayling, you may reasonably expect Trout, Smelts, Chub, and Dace; though the latter fish seem generally to prefer brighter and more gaudy flies.

The best general flies for Grayling, are small Browns and Bloas;* though they will occasionally feed to excess on Midges or Gnats; the larger kind of flies and palmers being more generally attractive to Trout and Dace: nevertheless, as good general flies, I strongly recommend the smaller Red Hackles, varied occasionally by brown or black.

OF THE MATERIALS FOR FLY-MAKING.

THE materials for Fly-making besides hooks, and gut or hair, are silk, feathers, fur, and herl.

The feathers should be of fine fibre, and glossy or transparent.

Fine Bloas may be found in the Waterhen, Swift, Blackbird, Jay, Snipe, Landrail, Starling, Fieldfare, Thrush, Bluocap, Skylark, Teal Duck, Sea Swallow, and Dotteril. Browns in the varied plumage of the Pheasant, Partridge, Pewet, † Grouse, Golden Plover, Sand Piper, Mallard, Owl, Sparrow, and Tom Tit.

* Bloa, or blea, a North-country word, signifying the colour of the clouds. Blea seems generally significant of cold.

† The Lapwing.

Some useful feathers may be found among the Poultry of a farm yard ; particularly the hackles, or neck feathers ; but the feathers of Poultry and Pigeons, though good in colour, are generally too strong in their fibre for small fly-making. The Grey Goose furnishes a good large bloa, both from the neck and under the wing.

Dubbing or fur, I do not much recommend, and rarely use, as the Ephemera, or Water-flies have mostly hard, scaly bodies, which are best represented by silk, which should be procured of all colours, and care taken to select it of the finest description, and to use it well waxed.

Some flies, however, are undoubtedly better made with fur bodies ; the principal furs necessary are Hare's face, ear, and neck ; Squirrel, Martin, Mole, and Water Rat, and in Rabbit's whiskers, Mohair of different colours, and the long hairs of a Sable or Fitchett's tail.

Ostrich herl is an excellent material for the bodies of several flies, and may be procured or dyed of almost any colour. The tail of the Peacock also furnishes a beautiful herl, suitable for the body of many flies and palmers.

Hackles of all sizes, from half an inch to two inches long, and of all colours, (black, red, red and black, or furnace duns of various kinds,) should be procured for making legs to winged flies. Sooty or grizzled hackles may be found natural, but some colours, as yellow, green, blue, brown, purple, must be dyed ; of which more anon.

The hackles for legs should be very small, but it is