

**OGDEN ON FLY  
TYING, ETC.**

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Ogden on Fly Tying, Etc. by James Ogden

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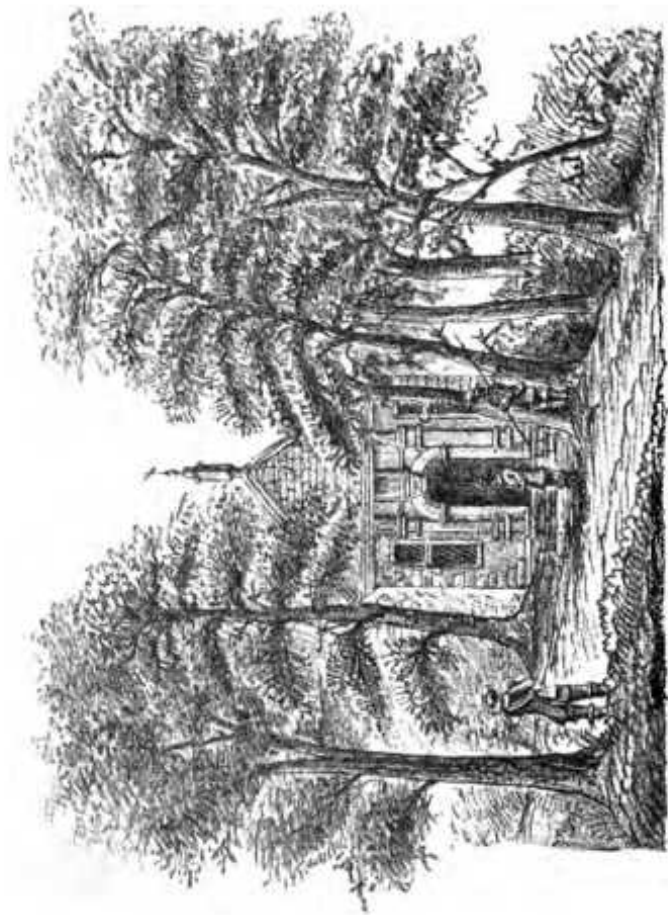
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**JAMES OGDEN**

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Cotton's Fishing Mouse.

James OGDEN

ON

FLY TYING,

ETC.

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JAMES OGDEN, 28, WINCHCOMB STREET.

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## CONTENTS.

	PAGE
ON FLY DRESSING . . . . .	1
MY FAVOURITE STANDARD FLIES . . . . .	6
ON SALMON FLIES . . . . .	25
THE MAY FLY . . . . .	28
THE GREEN DRAKE . . . . .	53
ON RODS . . . . .	60
A FEW HINTS ON CASTING . . . . .	69
ON REELS . . . . .	70
ON FLY LINES . . . . .	71
OGDEN'S NOTED SEAT BASKET . . . . .	72
OGDEN'S SPRING FOLDING LANDING NET . . . . .	74
ON MINNOW FISHING . . . . .	75
IRELAND . . . . .	78

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## P R E F A C E.

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**I**N introducing my Manual to the angling world, my principal object is to give anglers a lesson on Fly Dressing, and Setting on the Wings in my own peculiar style. It is also my intention to give my readers the experience of many years devoted to the science of "Fly Fishing."

I have for some time felt a desire to introduce my practical experience, together with that of my late father, who had seventy years' practice on the rivers Wye, Derwent, Lathkill, and Dove, Derbyshire; and who, as well as myself, have fished Ireland, Scotland, and Wales, North and South. Most of our practice, however, lay in Derbyshire.

When I meet with an angler who has gained his knowledge of the rod, and can make a basket on these Derbyshire streams, I at once conclude he can kill fish on any river in the world; for I have proved beyond doubt that these waters test the eye as to size and colour, in dressing the artificial fly, far more than other streams.



It is remarkable that the very least colour, and which can only be discerned by the aid of the magnifying glass, should make so much difference. I have frequently taken three or four fish with the middle fly a dropper, and have then changed my end fly for a similar one to the dropper, but with no better success, but have filled my basket with the dropper fly. At the close of the day's sport I have placed the two flies under a magnifying glass, and discovered the slightest shade more colour in the dropper with which I had killed the fish than could be seen in the other fly. A Scotchman would say, if they take one fly why not another? and laugh when I speak of size and colour being necessary; and would say he could make a fly, while going to the burn, from a bit of wool pulled out of his cap, that would beat all my artistically tied flies. They certainly have killed fish with what they have made, but have been glad to beg some of mine before the day was over. I remark this, here, to show how much more our fish are enlightened as compared with those in Scotland. Then again, where the Scotch streams have only one rod on them in the course of a week, many of ours have a dozen in a day thrashing them; and the fish get to know a line as well as the angler himself. I have often been amused to see how soon a feeding trout would leave off on being presented with an artificial fly, particularly if the angler does it at all unskilfully, or shows even his shadow on the water. I frequently take off my hat and creep along, in the endeavour to take a fish off his guard; and have often been repaid by basketing a fine trout. I have

always followed Izaak Walton's advice in fishing fine and far off. My remarks in these pages are chiefly confined to Trout and Greyling fishing; and the angler must not feel disappointed that I have touched so briefly on flies, and only given a list of my favourite standard flies, which I have proved from experience no angler should be without. My old friend, Alfred Ronalds (with whom I have spent many pleasant days fishing on Tal-y-llyn lake), has given a full and correct account of the flies for each month, in his book called "The Fly Fisher's Entomology."

I have had considerable practice in Pike fishing, but do not consider it necessary to treat on that subject at all. That worthy angler, Mr. Cholmondely Pennell, in the second edition of his work on "The Habits of Pike and Angling for them, with Suitable Tackle," has completely and satisfactorily exhausted the subject; and I must say his buffer knot is a great boon to anglers, and no salmon casting line can be depended on without it.

I feel every confidence in saying no angler could have studied the gentle craft more than I have done from my youth, always testing my own inventions, to prove their killing qualities, before introducing them to the public. It is well known that I am the inventor of Floating Flies, the Seat Basket, and the Spring Folding Landing Net, which is so conveniently carried on the basket strap; also the celebrated Devil Killers, which have proved so deadly that they have been prohibited on many streams. I have frequently made a bet that I would go to a stream and take a trout the first spin (of course I knew where to try for them), and have been con-

fidest of winning, as I knew the spinning qualities of these devil killers to be such that the fish could not resist, but would come at it like a flash of lightning. The angler should spin it quickly and keep it well under water ; not use it like the late Dr. Jephson, of Leamington, did. Soon after I brought it out, he sent for three ; a friend of his, who had used it successfully, recommending him to try it. He tied a piece of line to the three devil killers and threw them into the river Leam, securing the line to the bank, and leaving them in all night. The next morning, on attempting to take them up, he found two fast to the bottom, and of course lost them. He told his angling friend he did not think much of my devil killers, as he had put three in the river all night and had not caught a fish, losing two of them into the bargain. I have briefly described how to use the real and artificial minnow.

The anecdotes I have related are facts and incidents in my own fishing experience. I have borrowed from no one ; but have written in the plainest language, so that the youngest angler may understand it and profit by my experience. I think my little Manual will receive a hearty welcome in the angling world, and will be as heartily disapproved by the trout, who will take it hard that seventy years' experience of their tricks should become public property.

