

**AN AUTHENTIC HISTORICAL MEMOIR OF
THE SCHUYLKILL FISHING COMPANY OF
THE STATE IN SCHUYLKILL: FROM ITS
ESTABLISHMENT ON THAT ROMANTIC
STREAM, NEAR PHILADELPHIA, IN THE
YEAR 1732, TO THE PRESENT TIME**

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An authentic historical memoir of the Schuylkill Fishing Company of the State in Schuylkill: from its establishment on that romantic stream, near Philadelphia, in the year 1732, to the present time by Anonymous

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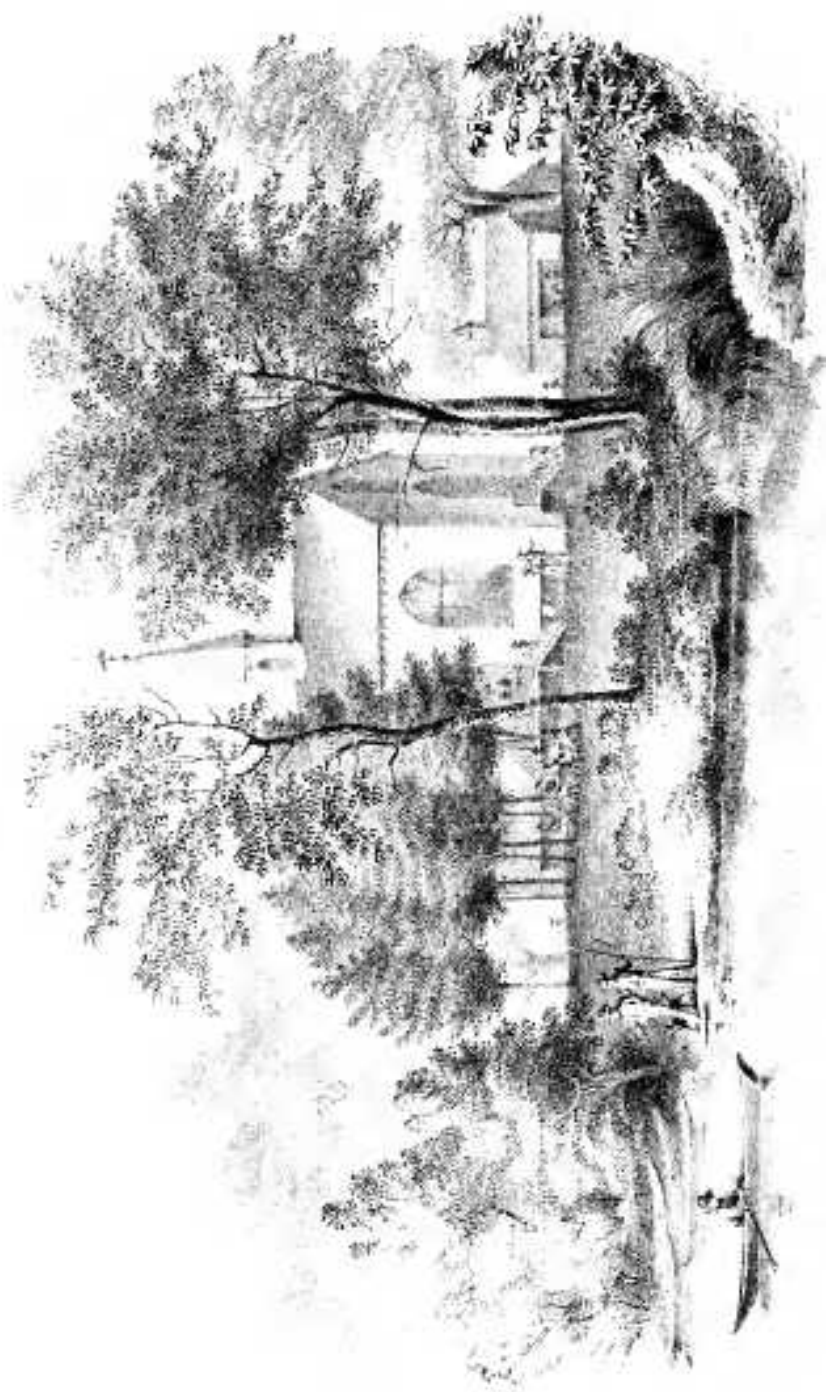
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ANONYMOUS

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OF THE
State of Schuylkill.

FROM ITS ESTABLISHMENT ON THAT ROMANTIC STREAM,

NEAR PHILADELPHIA,

IN THE YEAR 1732, TO THE PRESENT TIME.

BY A MEMBER.

" If you look to its antiquity, it is most ancient,—
If to its dignity, it is most honorable—
If to its jurisdiction, it is most extensive. "

PHILADELPHIA:

PUBLISHED BY JUDAH DOBSON.

■■■■■■■■■■

1830.

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Eastern District of Pennsylvania, to wit:

BE IT REMEMBERED, that, on the nineteenth day of April, in the fifty-fourth year of the Independence of the United States of America, A. D. 1836, JESSE BOGGS, of the said district, hath deposited in this office the title of a book, the right whereof he claims as proprietor, in the words following, to wit:—

“An Authentic Historical Memoir of the Schuylkill Fishing Company, of the State in Schuylkill. From its establishment on that romantic stream, near Philadelphia, in the year 1734, to the present time. By a Member.

“If you look to its antiquity, it is most ancient—
If to its dignity, it is most honorable—
If to its jurisdiction, it is most extensive.”

In conformity to the act of the Congress of the United States, entitled “An Act for the encouragement of learning, by securing the copies of maps, charts, and books, to the authors and proprietors of such copies, during the times therein mentioned”—And also to the Act, entitled “An Act supplementary to an Act, entitled, ‘An Act for the encouragement of learning, by securing the copies of maps, charts, and books, to the authors and proprietors of such copies during the times therein mentioned,’ and extending the benefits thereof to the arts of designing, engraving, and etching historical and other prints.”

D. CALDWELL,
Clerk of the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

TO THE
GOVERNOR, COUNCIL, AND CITIZENS,
OF THE
State in Schuylkill,
THIS HISTORICAL MEMOIR
OF THE
SCHUYLKILL FISHING COMPANY,

Which you have been pleased to honor with the
encouraging voice of unanimous approba-
tion, is with permission respectfully
dedicated, by your Friend and
Fellow Citizen,

THE AUTHOR.

INTRODUCTION.

The present unpretending Historical Sketch of the "*Schuylkill Fishing Company*," derives whatever of interest it possesses from its locality and its origin in primitive colonial times, amongst our independent liberal minded ancestors, associated for laudable recreative objects. The cement of their durable and happy union was formed of those sound principles and rules of social order and correct deportment, characteristic of our virtuous forefathers.

They built upon a sure foundation, and exhibited the singularly novel spectacle of a pleasurable Institution, well governed and prosperous beyond human calculation, in the assumed dignity, form and feature of an Independent political Commonwealth.

Their admirable Constitution, was held sacred and inviolable.

Their Laws, Statute or Common, unvacillating. Changes were infrequent, and only made with great deliberation, in adaptation to altered times and circumstances.

Thus they nobly inculcated an invaluable lesson of enlightened wisdom and just administration, to the political

governments around them, acting in more extended and important spheres, worthy of all imitation and all praise.

The title of this little volume sufficiently imports its circumscribed contents; it is not our intention to give instruction in the *art of fishing*. It would be a task undecided and unprofitable to the present generation. The theory and practice of it is every where known, especially throughout our river intersected Continent. The subject early attracted the attention of the Literati, and was even thought worthy the notice of the fair.

The Book of St. Albans so called, by Juliana Berners, a lady of noble family and prioress of the nunnery of Sopwell near St. Alban's England, was printed in 1486, and contains the first known *treatise on fishing*, extant. It is therein ranked as pre-eminent to the diversions of hunting, hawking, and fowling, which are considered by the pious authoress as attended with inconveniences and disappointments; whereas in fishing, if his sport fall him, *the angler* she quaintly remarks, "Atte the leest hath his holisom walke, and mery at his ease, a swete ayre of the swete sauowre of the meede floures, that makyth him hungry; he hereth the melodyous armony of foules; and whiche me seemyth better than alle the noyse of houndys, the blastes of hornys, and the scrye of foules that hunters, fawkeners and foulers can mayke."

"And if the angler take fysshe, surely thenne is there noo man merier than he is in his spyryte."

Moreover in the pious simplicity of ancient days, angling was looked on as auxiliary to contemplation, and hence it obtained high favor as a means of recreation with devout persons.

Independently of its recommendation as in vogue in the apostolic ages, it was sanctioned at a later period of the christian era in practice, by the pious learned Doctor Wm. Perkins and Doctor Wm. Whitaker, both ancient divines of the last of the sixteenth century; by the venerable Doctor Alexander Nowell, Dean of St. Pauls'; in VI Edward's reign 1561, and by the learned and celebrated Pro-

most of Eton College, Sir Henry Wotton in the reign of James I. who thus commends the art of angling after the labor of study, as "a rest to his mind, a clearer of his spirits, a diverter of sadness, a calmer of unquiet thoughts, a moderator of passions, a procurer of contentedness; that it beget habits of peace and patience in those that possessed and practised it."

It was loved cherished and practised with uncommon ardor and assiduity by the venerable and good Mr. *Isaac Walton*, emphatically called "*The common father of all anglers*," until his decease in December 1783, at an age exceeding four score and ten. In 1653, he compiled and published his celebrated "*Complete Angler or contemplative man's recreation*," to which his adopted son Charles Cotton, Esq. added a valuable supplement.

J. Barker, Esq. who angled for sixty years, and Col. R. Venables polished works of good repute.

Several modern authors of celebrity have contributed to instruct us in piscatory amusements; after all, it will be found that proficiency is only to be obtained by *patience* and long *practice*.

Walton compares "*angling to the virtue of humility, which has a calmness of spirit, and a world of other blessings attending upon it.*"

If it be conceded to have these salutary effects, operating like a panacea to the wearied mind, an occasional resort to it, as a harmless pastime and relaxation, is both wise and worthy of all commendation and adoption by the sedentary student, or care oppressed man of industry in business, as essentially contributory to happiness and length of days. It is some evidence of it to learn that Doctor Nowell lived to fill the measure of ninety-five years, blessed with unimpaired faculties of mind and body, attributed by himself, to "angling and temperance."

Sir Henry Wotton lived to see upwards of seventy-one years, and Doctors Perkins and Whitaker both lived to very advanced ages; descending to our own times, and approaching our own worthy anglers and officers of celebrity the several Governors of the Fishing Company,