

SALMON PROBLEMS

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Salmon Problems by J. W. Willis Bund

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J. W. WILLIS BUND

**SALMON
PROBLEMS**



SALMON PROBLEMS

BY

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P R E F A C E.

MY object in writing this book was, if possible, to obtain some reliable information on the different questions relating to Salmon that are mentioned in it. I am not sure if the chief result will not be to expose my own ignorance, but if even by that means the problems can be satisfactorily solved, I shall be quite content.

I ought to add that my personal experience of the habits of Salmon has been almost exclusively derived from the Severn, and one or two Welsh rivers, and that I have no personal knowledge of the habits of the fish either in the northern or southern rivers of England. The observations on those rivers may differ entirely from anything I have heard of. When I have referred to them in the following pages, it is usually from the facts stated in the Inspectors' Reports.

It only remains for me to express my thanks to various friends and correspondents who have helped me with notes and information as to the result of their observations on the habits of Salmon, and chief among them are Mr. Berrington, the Chairman of the Usk Board, who has given me the Annual Reports of that Board, and Mr. Alfred George, the Superintendent of the upper part of the Severn district, who has furnished me with much information as to the facts that, during eighteen years experience in the upper Severn, he has observed in connexion with Salmon. I have also obtained much valuable information from the late Mr. Buckland's official reports.

WICK EPISCOPI, WORCESTER,
August, 1885.

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SALMON PROBLEMS.

CHAPTER I.

INTRODUCTORY.

IN July, 1860, a Royal Commission was appointed to inquire into "the Salmon Fisheries of England and Wales, with the view of increasing the supply of a valuable article of food for the public." The Report, dated February 7, 1861, found the fisheries "to be in a state of lamentable depression," and the evidence taken by the Commission exhibited "many erroneous opinions respecting both the nature and habits of the Salmon, and the true interests of those who preserve and claim rights to the fisheries." The Report was followed by the Salmon Fishery Act, 1861, which may be shortly described as extending to England the law that then prevailed in Ireland. The wisdom of the measure as a whole has been justified by its results: the fisheries have been raised from the lowest state of depression into an important source of food supply. Whether they have been made as productive as they might have been, whether the system now adopted in many rivers is the right one, is an