

**THE ANGLER'S LIBRARY. III. PIKE AND
PERCH: WITH NOTES ON RECORD PIKE
AND A CHAPTER ON THE BLACK BASS,
MURRAY COD AND OTHER SPORTING
MEMBERS OF THE PERCH FAMILY**

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The Angler's Library. III. Pike and Perch: With Notes on Record Pike and a Chapter on the Black Bass, Murray Cod and Other Sporting Members of the Perch Family by Alfred Jardine

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The Angler's Library

EDITED BY

THE RIGHT HON. SIR HERBERT MAXWELL, BART.
AND F. G. AFLALO

III

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ILLUSTRATED



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INTRODUCTION

IN preparing the volume on Pike and Perch Fishing for the Angler's Library, the Editors have availed themselves of the labours of a thoroughly practical angler of long and varied experience. Perhaps there is no one living who has had better knowledge than Mr. Jardine of how, when, and where to take these sporting fish; and he has made it his study to supply useful information and describe the latest and best kinds of tackle, rather than to allure the general reader with a mere addition to the copious literature of angling. We feel sure that reliance may be placed on Mr. Jardine's counsel, and that his book will be found worthy of a corner in the fisherman's creel.

It is a little difficult, seeing how greatly inventors and inventions abound, to avoid appearing invidious in mentioning the wares of certain dealers to the exclusion of others perhaps equally good. But, while it is impossible to describe *all* the useful and ingenious tackle that has been devised, it is,

we think, reasonable that an angler should speak of what he has found most useful in his experience, and say frankly where it may be obtained.

Mr. Jardine throws some doubt on the authenticity of Colonel Thornton's 48 lb. pike (p. 19), but we venture to think that this is better attested than most other stories of big fish. The Colonel's Highland tour was made in 1786; he was accompanied by Mr. Garrard, a well-known painter of sporting subjects, afterwards (1800) elected an Associate of the Royal Academy, who painted the picture of this pike now hanging in the saloon of the Piscatorial Society at the Holborn Restaurant. The Colonel's steelyard was made to weigh no more than 29 lbs.; he estimated the fish at 47 or 48 lbs., and gives the measurement, "5 feet 4 inches from eye to fork."¹ This tallies fairly well with the authentic record of the proportion of length to weight shown by the great pike taken in Lough Romer, co. Cavan, in 1876, which measured 4 feet 6½ inches long, 25 inches in girth, and weighed 37¼ lbs.² If, as Hofland, quoted by Mr. Jardine, says, Colonel Thornton sometimes drew the long bow, it has been whispered that other anglers also have been fairly powerful archers; and it was not always to magnify his own exploits, for, in the course of his entertaining narrative, he gives several instances of his own discomfiture. Most people will consider the Colonel's capture of a perch weighing 7 lbs. in

¹ Thornton's *Sporting Tour* (edit. 1896), p. 94.

² *Field*, 30th May, 1896.

Loch Lomond a more prodigious feat than that of a 48 lbs. pike ; but Colonel Thornton, whose tour took place in 1786, had the advantage of casting angle in almost virgin waters. Few anglers ever troubled the Highland lochs in the eighteenth century, and doubtless there were many patriarchs cruising about their bays, which fell to the enviable lot of early explorers.

H. E. M.

F. G. A.

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