

THE SALMON

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The salmon by Alex Russel

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ALEX RUSSEL

THE SALMON

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THE SALMON

BY

ALEX. RUSSEL

EDINBURGH

EDMONSTON AND DOUGLAS

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NOTE.

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A. R.

SCOTSMAN OFFICE,
EDINBURGH, May 1864.



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CHAPTER I.

VALUE OF THE SALMON.

Property—Employment—Food—Sport.

THERE are at least two respects in which the subject of Salmon is important, and two in which it is interesting. It is important commercially, the salmon fisheries forming ancient and valuable property, a large means of employment, and a very considerable supply of food; somewhat less important as furnishing an old and keenly-relished sport, the privilege of exercising which has become a sort of property superadded to the value for purely commercial uses. It is interesting as involving some of the strangest facts, the most instructive experiments, and the most perplexing mysteries in natural history; and as having within these few years undergone investigation more searching and legislation more vigorous than for centuries before.

The subject, too, is especially a British, or British-and-Irish one—still more especially a Scottish one. The great majority of countries have by nature been cut off from direct interest and from any kind of power in the matter, and no country has an interest at once so great and so imperilled as our own; for upon few nations has the gift of the king of fish been conferred,