

**THE ORIGIN OF THE SILVER
EEL: WITH REMARKS ON
BAIT & FLY FISHING**

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The Origin of the Silver Eel: With Remarks on Bait & Fly Fishing by David Cairncross

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DAVID CAIRNCROSS

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EEL: WITH REMARKS ON
BAIT & FLY FISHING**

THE
Origin of the Silver Gel,

WITH REMARKS ON

Bait & Fly Fishing.

BY

DAVID CAIRNCROSS.



LONDON :

G. SHIELD, 30, LOWER SLOANE STREET, S.W.

MDCCLXII.

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TO THE
Honble. the President, Vice-President, & Members
OF THE
BLAIRGOWRIE ANGLING CLUB.

GENTLEMEN,

Being privileged with a full share of your confidence individually, and having been honoured with the same distinction by you in your associated capacity, my being allowed to dedicate this humble treatise to your honourable Club, proves beyond a doubt not only the deep sincerity of all your past favours, but also a desire on your part (expressed in a way most congenial to my heart and honourable to my mind) that these favours should be perpetuated; and although separated from you, it is the wish of your honourable Society not only to acknowledge me as a Brother, but so to extend the favours of the brotherhood, as to patronize the efforts of my mind, and stamp with your approbation my little work. Suffice it to say, that this last act of your kindness recalls some of the happiest scenes of my life, and goes far to gladden me in the land of my adoption, lending a bright gleam to my setting sun, and shedding a chastened joy over my closing years.

With deepest gratitude to each and all of you for your numerous acts of esteem and goodwill, and with a hearty prayer for long life and prosperity to your honourable Club, and to each individual member, allow me, for "Auld Lang Syne," to subscribe myself,

Your obedient Servant,

THE AUTHOR.

LONDON, August 19th, 1862.

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Prefatory Remarks.

I WAS reared in one of the rural districts of Scotland, near the mouth of the Tay. Here education was small in quantity and inferior in quality; little of it came my way, and what did come was very elementary indeed, English grammar and the art of composition being entirely excluded. Quietly, it was the opinion of many of the elder pupils that the teacher should have been at school a little longer himself. These facts will in some measure prepare my reader to excuse the style of my simple treatise; also, I may say what of it I possess was formed in the hurried moments of an engi-

neer's apprenticeship, and mainly to assist me in decently stringing together my few scientific observations. Books on the arts and sciences seldom or never made their appearance in the place of my nativity; and so few were my opportunities of reading, and so incessant my toils, that all my knowledge through means of books could be collected in the space of a few hours. My never-failing fountain of supply during my investigations has been an old trusty copy of Bailey's Dictionary, enabling me to state, as nearly as I could in plain English, the observations made by me from time to time.

I never expected to publish these remarks; they are simply the jottings of a progressive experiment, having for its object the unfolding of the origin of the silver eel. The series of inquiries, and the notes recording them, extend over a period of