

THE BOOK OF THE ROACH

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The Book of the Roach by Greville Fennell

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GREVILLE FENNELL

**THE BOOK
OF THE ROACH**

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©

THE

BOOK OF THE ROACH.

BY

John GREVILLE FENNELL,
(OF "THE FIELD.")

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P R E F A C E.

WE were lately accosted by an old friend: "Do you know, Greville F., that many of us have read your articles in the *Field* for years past, until we accept you as one of our authorities upon matters of angling? Now tell us candidly, do you really understand roach-fishing? If you do, why not write a book about it? The salmon, the trout, and the pike have had volumes dedicated to them, and surely a fish, the pursuit of which is a favourite amusement with so many, deserves a special book of its own. Some may object to the roach being raised to this honour; say that it is not a game fish, and therefore unworthy of the notice of anglers. But we must remember that we have anglers of many classes; for, while some affect the higher branches of the art, and can afford the attendant expenses, there are others who—more humble in their notions of enjoyment—do not soar so high, and are well content with less pretentious sport."

The subjoined pages are our substantive reply to the wish so kindly expressed. To decide how much we know about roach-fishing must now be left to our brother anglers, who are the only competent judges; and may they prove merciful.

Upon looking through what had been written upon roach-fishing, we found that there were three courses open

to us. The first, to ignore all but our own personal experience, which would have prevented our giving an exhaustive view of the subject—an object we consider most desirable. Secondly, to appropriate without scruple, and re-write the information handed down to us for the last three hundred years—a system of book-making which unhappily characterizes a great portion of our angling literature. Or, thirdly, to make free use, wherever expedient, of the labours of former authors, giving them full credit for the originality and value of their ideas, and transcribing the extracts as nearly as possible in their own words. We have chosen the first and last of these three lines of procedure, and trust the blending of the two will prove in every respect satisfactory and acceptable to our readers.

GREVILLE FENNELL.

BARNES, SURREY,
11th July, 1870.

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