

**CHALKSTREAM AND
MOORLAND, THOUGHTS
ON TROUT-FISHING**

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Chalkstream and moorland, thoughts on trout-fishing by Harold Russell

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HAROLD RUSSELL

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MOORLAND

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THOUGHTS ON TROUT-FISHING

BY
HAROLD RUSSELL
OF THE INNER TEMPLE AND MIDLAND CIRCUIT

*Lord, who would live turmoiled in the Court,
And may enjoy such quiet walks as these?*

HENRY VI Part II Act iv. Sc. 10

LONDON
SMITH, ELDER & CO., 15, WATERLOO PLACE

1911

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“Peace be at your Labour, honest Fishermen”

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PREFACE

IT is incumbent upon any one who writes a new book about fishing to open with an apology. He cannot put forward the novelty and freshness of the subject. When so much has already been written, a man hesitates before presenting his work to the public. I am profoundly conscious that a great deal that is said in the following pages about trout-fishing is stale. Yet I believe that fishing is a subject that is not and, indeed, cannot be exhausted. Like travel, hunting, drinking, love, and other simple and primitive human passions, it is of eternal interest. Most books about fishing have been designed to impart instruction. I am too modest about my own skill to suppose that any one, except a mere beginner, can learn much from my teaching. Yet it is gratifying, as the years go on, to find that one improves in the art of throwing a fly and catches fish which used to defy one. That has been my experience, and I trust that others may share it. We cannot all hope to become what are called beautiful fishermen. I myself gave up that ambition many years ago; but every one can attain a certain manual dexterity, and, by exercising his wits as well, will learn how to

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catch trout. It may be that some passages in what I have written about the dry-fly, the sunk-fly, the use of too fine tackle, and the pleasures of filling a creel with heavy trout may invite some of the fraternity to denounce me as a poacher. The border-line between a sportsman and a poacher is hard to define. Big trout in clear streams are so well able to take care of themselves in these days, that the most sportsman-like fly-fisher who wants to catch them must exercise his craftiest powers. I am a firm believer in the efficacy of fishing upstream under almost all conditions, but I will not venture to instruct. It may seem bold to write a book on fishing with the avowed object of amusing rather than teaching. But I myself have derived such great delight from what others have written about fishing, that I cannot help hoping that other fishermen may get a little pleasure from reading my book. Some parts of this volume have already been printed in the *Edinburgh Review*, *National Review*, *Spectator*, *Outlook*, and *County Gentleman*. I am grateful for the leave that has been given me to republish. But in most cases I have altered and added so much that little remains of the original form.

H. R.

LONDON, *April*, 1911.

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