

SALMON FISHING

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Salmon fishing by John James Hardy

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JOHN JAMES HARDY

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FISHING**



From a Painting by E. Hodgson Smart.

John James Hardy

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BY

JOHN JAMES HARDY

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INTRODUCTION

WELL do I remember my first introduction to angling—how a younger brother and I toddled down to the river Aln armed with a piece of string and a few bent pins,—how we dug a large worm, and impaling it on a pin carefully laid our baited hook in the shallows of the river where the minnows came to bask in the sun. Then we fastened the line by placing a large stone on the end of it, and lying on the sand watched the minnows, until their numbers covered our worm from sight. Giving them time to swallow it, we ran to the line expecting to find one hooked. Great, however, was our surprise and disappointment, to find that not a single minnow had the courage to eat a worm larger than himself.

How in later years, when the minnow had been conquered, and we had risen to the dignity of possessing an old rod, we begged from the Pater a fly, and not being able to cast it, laid the rod over the willows so that the fly danced on the

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stream where the troutlets used to rise. How we sat and watched it until a little fellow hooked himself; then hurrah! we yanked him out and ran home to exhibit him to our friends with much pride, before we finally made a feast of him.

Possibly this little episode engendered the love of angling (but I come of an angling race); in any case, the handling of the rod has been one of the greatest pleasures of my existence.

As a partner in the Firm of Hardy Brothers as well as an enthusiastic lover of sport, I have at all times taken a lively interest in all that pertains to angling; seeking better knowledge of the ways of the wild things we angled for; watching them in their homes in the river; endeavouring to discover why our efforts were not crowned with success; hatching new schemes and inventing new lures has always been a most enjoyable pastime.

Two years ago I was requested by *Country Life* to undertake the authorship of "Salmon Fishing" in their Library of Sport. In this volume, some of the chapters in that publication appear in a revised form, together with such instructions in the art of dressing salmon flies and the method of using them, as I consider important to the student of salmon fishing.

All true anglers seek a fuller knowledge of

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their craft, and learn much from each other, and it is in this direction I hope my endeavours may be a help to others. The more we learn of angling the more enjoyment we discover in its pursuit, more especially when under difficult conditions success crowns our efforts.

Animated with the spirit which desires to know more of the salmon and their moods, one always feels that there are many problems yet unsolved. Let us hope that while they make the angler's life more interesting and enjoyable, they will for all time remain a fascinating study for enquiring minds.

JOHN JAMES HARDY.

ALNWICK, *March* 1907.

