

THAMES AND TWEED

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Thames and Tweed by George Rooper

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GEORGE ROOPER

**THAMES
AND TWEED**

THAMES AND TWEED

BY

GEORGE ROOPER

AUTHOR OF "FLOOD, FIELD, AND FOREST,"
"TALES AND SKETCHES," ETC.

THIRD EDITION, REVISED AND ENLARGED

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ADVERTISEMENTS.

"A Book for the Naturalist and Sportsman."

New Edition, Price 5s.,

FLOOD, FIELD, AND FOREST.

By GEORGE ROOPER.

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- I. AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF SALMO SALAR, ESQ.
- II. A FOX'S TALE.
- III. BOLSOVER FOREST.
- IV. THE BAGMAN.

OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

"A small volume is here recommended, not only to the sportsman, but to the general reader, which, while it deals with all field sports—even with the rat and the badger—and deals with them all lovingly as things of beauty and joys for ever, while it delights by the freshness of its story-telling, and ascends to high paths in its incidents, is replete with a knowledge which nothing short of a life study can have given."—*Fortnightly Review*.

"The contents of this volume are formed in part of magazine papers which have already received the approbation of the sporting public, in part of original matter, which equally deserves to receive it. The two autobiographies of the salmon and the fox were much admired at the time for the freshness and vigour of the narrative, as well as for the knowledge they displayed both of natural history and field sports. In our judgment, however, the third portion of the work, now published for the first time, with the title of 'Bolsover Forest,' is the most interesting of the three, dealing as it does more particularly with that delightful border-land on which the sportsman and the naturalist meet. . . . 'Bolsover Forest' is a history of bird's-nesting, rat-catching, badger-hunting, snake-taming, and such other sports, partly juvenile, partly common to all ages, as he who has once tasted will always look back upon with pleasure."—*Pull Mall Gazette*.

"The real object of Mr Rooper's book is laudable. He wishes to make natural history more palatable than it is in general, and to avoid the didactic, stiff, statistical, quasi-scientific style of most writers. Not only does he succeed in this, but he has many other merits. He writes on sporting without exaggeration or vulgarity. Confining himself almost exclusively to what he has seen himself, he is at once original and accurate."—*Spectator*.

"Mr Rooper is one of those who has always steadily practised what he knows; and when we say that no method of capturing the birds, beasts, and fishes of his native land is unknown to him, and that he is willing to divulge all his secrets, we have probably said enough to recommend his book to all whom it may concern."—*Contemporary Review*.

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"The volume contains four stories. . . . They are charming from their fresh and healthy tone. 'The Begman' . . . is as good as anything of its kind by Whyte Melville, and this is the highest praise that can be bestowed on any 'Foxiana.'"—*Northampton Mercury*.

"This handsome, though not costly, volume is, in our judgment, a book of mark. . . . 'Flood, Field, and Forest,' comprises several very clever and amusing tales, replete with interesting facts and incidents in natural history. . . . We must confess that (of course recognizing a few well-known exceptions) we have almost despaired of seeing anyone writing popularly upon hunting without vulgarity, or upon fishing without insipidity; but these tales are written by a man who is at once a keen sportsman, a quick-eyed diligent naturalist, and a gentleman; last, but not least, a practical master of good, simple, animated style, in whose compositions we detect no bad English, scarcely one slipshod sentence or awkward expression. . . . We repeat we feel a personal obligation to Mr Rooper for the pleasure his writings have afforded us."—*Land and Water*.

"The Autobiography of Salmo Salar, Esq., 'A Fox's Tale,' 'Bolsaver Forest,' and 'The Begman,' are the headings of the four chapters which compose this volume, and in each the writer has striven with marked success to blend the description of facts in natural history with incidents such as fire the soul, and spur the imagination of the sportsman. . . . All sportsmen will enjoy reading it."—*Daily Telegraph*.

"We are all of us ready to be pleased with a good description of flood, field, and forest, and that the author has given us. . . . Perhaps, with the exception of Whyte Melville, Mr Rooper is the best historian of a run with the foxhounds that we have had. . . . It has no doubt been a recreation to him to write the book; certainly it has been a recreation to us to read it."—*Examiner and London Review*.

"Mr Rooper may be credited with having accomplished his purpose in a manner that will render his book acceptable to young sportsmen, and highly popular with those who have a taste for natural history."—*Athenaeum*.

"The object Mr Rooper appears to have in view is, to impart the knowledge which he has gained from his own experience to the unskilled tyro in handling the rod, the whip, or the gun; and whether he is giving his lessons in the guise of the salmon, the fox, or 'Master B,' he equally contrives to render them both useful and entertaining."—*Morning Post*.

"'Flood, Field, and Forest' is precisely the book it was meant to be, and may therefore be said to have attained perfection after its kind. . . . Even those who care little or nothing for field sports will find the book very amusing, and by no means unprofitable reading. . . . Mr Rooper is evidently a master of his subject, from fox-hunting and salmon-fishing down to rat-catching and bird-nesting, and his pages teem with information and useful hints for the benefit of novices."—*The Echo*.

"We need simply recommend to all lovers of sporting Mr George Rooper's 'Flood, Field, and Forest.'"—*Daily News*.

"The true excellence of the work rests in the author's powers of description, which are of no mean order."—*Brighton Gazette*.

"Mr Rooper has given us in this volume a very pleasant *salvo* of sport and natural history, full of fresh and spirited pictures of country life and English scenery. . . . He writes in a genial and agreeable style, with a graphic power unusual among mere sporting men."—*The Australian*.

"Mr George Rooper has deservedly arrived at the second edition in his 'Flood, Field, and Forest,' and as there are many readers of sporting works, we can recommend them this. The *Helio Librorum*, among many tit-bits, will find in Mr Rooper's pages some most pleasant writing about field-sports, and a rattling description of a run with the hounds, which excels similar works by other eminent hands."—*The Graphic*.

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OPINIONS OF THE PRESS OF PREVIOUS EDITIONS OF "THAMES AND TWEED."

"We can sincerely recommend 'Thames and Tweed' to anglers who are desirous of getting many wise hints and suggestions of a practical kind. It deserves the success of a second edition."—*Observer*.

"Under the title of 'Thames and Tweed' Mr. Rooper has given us another of his interesting, amusing, and highly useful books on sporting subjects. . . . The book is essentially an angler's book, full of useful hints given in the pleasantest and most popular style. . . . As a contribution to angling literature, we look upon it as among the best, and certainly one of the pleasantest we have ever read."—*Sporting Gazette*.

"A really practical book, fit to be put by an angler into his bag. In it he will find valuable hints about tackle, fish, their habitats, their inclinations, and even the mode of cooking them. It is an eminently pleasant volume."—*Scot*.

"This is a book that fishermen will devour with as much avidity as the trout swallows a fly, and with a great deal more satisfaction. . . . A more delightful and a more instructive work, to incipient fishermen, than Thames and Tweed, never fell to our reading."—*Brighton Herald*.

"Mr. Rooper's writings are always welcomed by the genuine sportsman, and this little half-crown treatise will be a valuable addition to Piscator's library."—*Northampton Herald*.

"Mr. Rooper's practical observations in all matters relating to the capture of fish of all kinds, of which he treats, are very good, and, as the writing is agreeable, and the jokes racy, both profit and pleasure are derivable from it. The book is neatly got up, and well printed."—*Sportsman*.

"Mr. Rooper's book is full of interesting items of intelligence respecting the taking of salmon, and other popular inhabitants of the water, with whose habits he seems to be on terms of the utmost familiarity."—*City Press*.

"This little book is the most satisfactory practical guide to the art of angling we have come upon in these modern times. . . . We recommend all young anglers—and many old ones as well—to provide themselves with it before they start on their next fishing expedition."—*Lloyd's News*.

"The best expedients to be pursued for all fish in Thames and Tweed, and such-like rivers, are fully explained. The work is thoroughly practical, and useful to the adept as well as to the beginner."—*Bookseller*.

"Mr. Rooper is a salmon fisherman of some experience; he has a strong sportsmanlike feeling, and a very pleasant way of rendering a sketch of salmon-fishing exploits, or describing a run with a salmon."—*Field*.

"A sensible and useful little book. . . . The young angler may find some useful hints in this book, and the experienced angler will be reminded of delightful places he has visited in bygone years."—*Advertiser*.

"Unpretending as the little book is, it contains admirable directions for the principal methods of angling, and will no doubt be of the greatest service to those who aspire to excel in the art which has been aptly termed 'the contemplative man's recreation.'"—*Northampton Gazette*.

PREFACE.

to

THE THIRD EDITION.

IT is quite ten years since the first edition of this little book was published. It was well received, and bade fair to become popular, but, unluckily for me, a *great* book on the same subject appeared at the same time, under the auspices of "Longman & Co.," profusely illustrated, and beautifully got up. Perhaps it was the better book; at any rate its publication stopped the sale of my second edition, which "dragged its slow length along," and when, at last, it had run out, I had not the heart to venture upon a third. Whether I am justified in doing so now time will show, probably not, but I venture to think that there are hints in the practical portion of the book worth the attention at least of the young fisherman, and which possibly older ones may find of value. The main object of the book, however, is to instil into the young fisherman's mind some knowledge of the natural history