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THE CONTEMPLATIVE MAN'S
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Cassell's National Library. The complete angler or, The contemplative man's recreation by
Isaak Walton & Henry Morley

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ISAAK WALTON & HENRY MORLEY

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THE COMPLETE ANGLER

OR THE

CONTEMPLATIVE MAN'S RECREATION

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ISAAC WALTON

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OR THE

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HENRY MORLEY

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1906

INTRODUCTION.

ISAAC WALTON was sixty years old, in the year 1653, when he published the first edition of his "Complete Angler." He was born at Stafford in 1593, and became a hosier in London, first in the Royal Exchange, and afterwards in Fleet Street. He made money, and retired, in 1644, to peaceful life, upon a little property of his own near Stafford. He married twice, and had children by each wife. His first wife, married in 1636, was a descendant of Archbishop Cranmer; his second wife, married in 1647, was a sister of Bishop Ken. Isaac Walton was a devout son of the Church, with a poet's love for poetry and music. His second wife had, like her brother, Thomas Ken, a beautiful voice. Ken was no bishop, but a boy of ten, when Walton became his brother-in-law. Soon after his marriage to Ken's sister, whom Walton called his Kenna ("And hear my Kenna sing a song"), Isaac Walton had for a guest George Morley, ejected, in March, 1648, from his canonry of Christchurch, and his living of Mildenhall, near Marlborough. George Morley, in those days of his adversity, lived with his friend Walton for a year. In after years, when Morley had become Bishop of Winchester, and Ken came to the Bishop as domestic

chaplain, he found his brother-in-law, Isaac Walton, at home in the Bishop's house. It was there that Walton wrote some of the Lives which followed "The Complete Angler." The original work had woodcut illustrations: we omit these, but not any part of Isaac Walton's text.

Charles Cotton's "Second Part of the Complete Angler, being Instructions how to Angle for Trout and Grayling in a Clear Stream," was added in 1676, and thenceforth associated with the book. Cotton himself, by thirty-seven years a younger man, was attached to Isaac Walton as a son by adoption. But Isaac Walton, who lived to be ninety-one, and died in 1683, was born ten years before the death of Elizabeth. Charles Cotton was born under Charles the First. There was but one Isaac Walton; and his book has an undying charm. When we join to it any other man's work, though it be work of a man he loved, we confuse the sense of its calm beauty. The same music could not come from two men of whom one wrote the lives of Hooker and George Herbert, and the other "Virgil Travestie."

H. M.

TO THE READER OF THIS DISCOURSE,
BUT ESPECIALLY
TO THE HONEST ANGLER.

I THINK fit to tell thee these following truths, that I did neither undertake, nor write, nor publish, and much less own, this Discourse to please myself; and, having been too easily drawn to do all to please others, as I propose not the gaining of credit by this undertaking, so I would not willingly lose any part of that to which I had a just title before I began it, and do therefore desire and hope, if I deserve not commendations, yet I may obtain pardon.

And though this Discourse may be liable to some exceptions, yet I cannot doubt but that most readers may receive so much pleasure or profit by it, as may make it worthy the time of their perusal, if they be not too grave or too busy men. And this is all the confidence that I can put on, concerning the merit of what is here offered to their consideration and censure; and if the last prove too severe, as I have a liberty, so I am resolved to use it, and neglect all sour censures.

And I wish the reader also to take notice, that in writing of it I have made myself a recreation of a recreation; and that it might prove so to him, and not read dull and tediously, I have in several places mixed, not any scurrility, but some innocent, harmless mirth, of which, if thou be a