DRY-FLY FISHING FOR TROUT AND GRAYLING: WITH SOME ADVICE TO A BEGINNER IN THE ART

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Dry-Fly Fishing for Trout and Grayling: With Some Advice to a Beginner in the Art by James Englefield

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("RED QUILL").

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FOR

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With Some Advice to a Beginner
in the Art.

BY

"RED QUILL"
(James Englefield).

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1908.

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I DEDICATE THIS BOOK

TO

SIR LINDSAY WOOD, BARONET,

AND IN MEMORY OF HIS BROTHER,

JOHN WOOD, ESQUIRE,

OF MAIDENHEAD, BERKSHIRE,

MY MOST INTIMATE AND CONGENIAL FRIEND

AND ANGLING COMPANION

DURING THE BEST YEARS OF OUR EARLY MANHOOD.

PREFACE,

AND BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH.

THE greatest pleasure in life and perhaps the most lasting (next to that of doing good) falls to the angler's lot, who, having made fishing his hobby in early years, is content to ride it in easy stages through Nature's loveliest scenes by flood and field, until old age, often long past the Psalmist's allotted span when "his strength" is said to be "but labour and sorrow," comes to arrest his feeble hand, and to deny to his faltering steps any longer the power to pursue his fascinating art: but even then the retrospect of it all is a delightful memory to the very end of his days, and he almost hopes that as of yore the garden of Eden was watered by the four fair rivers Pison, Gihon, Hiddekel, and Euphrates to make it fruitful and perfect, so in the next world he may have enchanting streams to linger by.

It is often said that a poet is born a poet, with the music of song already in his soul which may develop to a lofty strain, and "wake to ecstasy the

living lyre," or the poetic element may remain latent only, "mute and inglorious." That heredity has little or no influence in the making of poets would seem to be proved by the fact that their sons and daughters so rarely inherit this peculiar gift of their parents. So also it is sometimes asserted that a successful brother of the gentle craft is a born angler; and in this case heredity may to some extent be answerable for it, for the love of sport in one form or another is a national characteristic of nearly all Englishmen, and at the present time fishing is by far the most popular of all pastimes. An enthusiastic angler is always a worshipper of the Great Creator in all his works, especially

> Where peaceful rivers, soft and slow,
> Amidst the verdant landscape flow;

and he is very often a minor poet at heart, or he likes to think so.

The writer's forbears were certainly good anglers, and he remembers many tales his grandfather told of his exploits in the river Loddon near Shinfield, in Berkshire, particularly one giving stirring details of the capture of a 28lb. pike on gut tackle—the single hook being baited with a large live roach. The fish was played from a 12ft. moderately stiff rod for about twenty minutes, and then, completely exhausted, drawn on its side to a smooth, gravelly shallow ford and there lifted out