

HOW AND WHERE TO FISH IN IRELAND: A HAND- GUIDE FOR ANGLERS

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How and Where to Fish in Ireland: A Hand-Guide for Anglers by John Joseph Dunne

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JOHN JOSEPH DUNNE

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IN IRELAND.

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A HAND-GUIDE FOR ANGLERS

BY

"HI-REGAN", pseud.

John Joseph Deane

Dulcis scribens reminiscitur Argos.

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SAMPSON LOW, MARSTON, SEARLE, & RIVINGTON

CROWN BUILDINGS, 188, FLEET STREET

1887

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D8
1887

DEDICATED TO MY SONS,

R. AND J.,

IN GOOD HOPE OF THEIR HAVING

THE MANLY ENDURANCE, DECISION, RESOURCE, AND FINE TEMPER

WHICH BECOME ALL

TRUE SPORTSMEN.

INTRODUCTION.

I PROPOSE to set down in this book such advice as may enable visitors to Ireland to reach fishing-quarters, and kill fish in a sporting way with fly, prawn, minnow, worms, &c.; and I am encouraged to believe that its acceptance will justify my endeavour to supply a plain guide to, and on, the loughs and rivers which have afforded me days of delightful relaxation from the cares of an active life.

I shall not claim perfection for my directions, nor contest the utility of other methods than my own; but I have angled much and successfully since my boyhood in Ireland, and in the following pages will be found the procedure which matured experience tells me is the best. Some of the precepts have been frequently published—some of them are locally well known; but for a few I claim such originality as lies in their having struck me (without hints from other anglers); and those last will, I think, be found not the least useful. In speaking of the hotels, conveyances, accommodation, routes, and means of getting permission to fish, some inaccuracies may crop up; but I have consulted the latest and all available authorities, and can confidently say that during the few months of my own absence from Ireland but little change has been made in these matters.

I have omitted all I know of cross-line fishing—to which, in my erring youth, I was addicted. I plead guilty; and so pleading, will be forgiven. Of the still more pestilent “otter” I shall say nothing, feeling grievously sure that visitors to the great loughs will meet too many, and too capable, instructors in its use.

With these few introductory words, I beg to bespeak from anglers a welcome for a brother angler's guide-book in Fair Ireland.

I had two ends in writing: one will have been served, if, by following my advice, my readers get sport—their success in fishing will be the measure of mine in writing. The other end is, that many kindly Englishmen may, in the pursuit of an enchanting sport, add to their too scant knowledge of my beautiful and unhappy country and its pure-hearted, sport-loving people.

HI-R.

LONDON, *June*, 1886.

HOW AND WHERE TO FISH IN IRELAND.

CHAPTER I.

OF A SUITABLE EQUIPMENT AND TACKLE.

THE angler who would have success in Ireland should be provided with good rods and suitable tackle. The kind of rod I should recommend, is, for salmon fishing, a Shannon or Scotch pattern rod, or a split-cane rod of the American or Alnwick pattern. The Shannon rod, miscalled "Castleconnel," where its manufacture was introduced many years after it was elsewhere known to Shannon anglers, is generally made sixteen to eighteen feet long. Some very powerful men may use rods of greater length, but perhaps the fatigue of working them is not compensated by their great power in making a long cast, and they require a gigantic man of proportionate strength to work them. They kill a fish quicker, and, owing to being limber to the very butt, they cause less breaks than any other, by they are somewhat top-heavy and, unless in the hands of an adept, do not cast against the wind so easily as the better balanced rods of the "Scotch" pattern, which most rod-makers in Ireland, England, and Scotland supply. Euright, of Castleconnel, has made a speciality of their manufacture, but they are supplied by Kelly and Flint, in Dublin; Haynes, in Cork; Hilliard, in Templemore; and Nestor, in Limerick; and it was from the latter that I purchased my best salmon rod at a very moderate price. This rod is just sixteen feet four inches when spliced, has tremendous casting and killing power, and is not too big for me, though my height is about five feet seven inches. Mr. Nestor is a capital practical fisherman, and in all that pertains to angling in Ireland, and especially the Shannon, I can speak of him as an accomplished guide, who sells the best material, and very cheaply. The Shannon rod is made