

STREAMCRAFT; AN ANGLING MANUAL

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Streamcraft; an angling manual by Geo. Parker Holden

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GEO. PARKER HOLDEN

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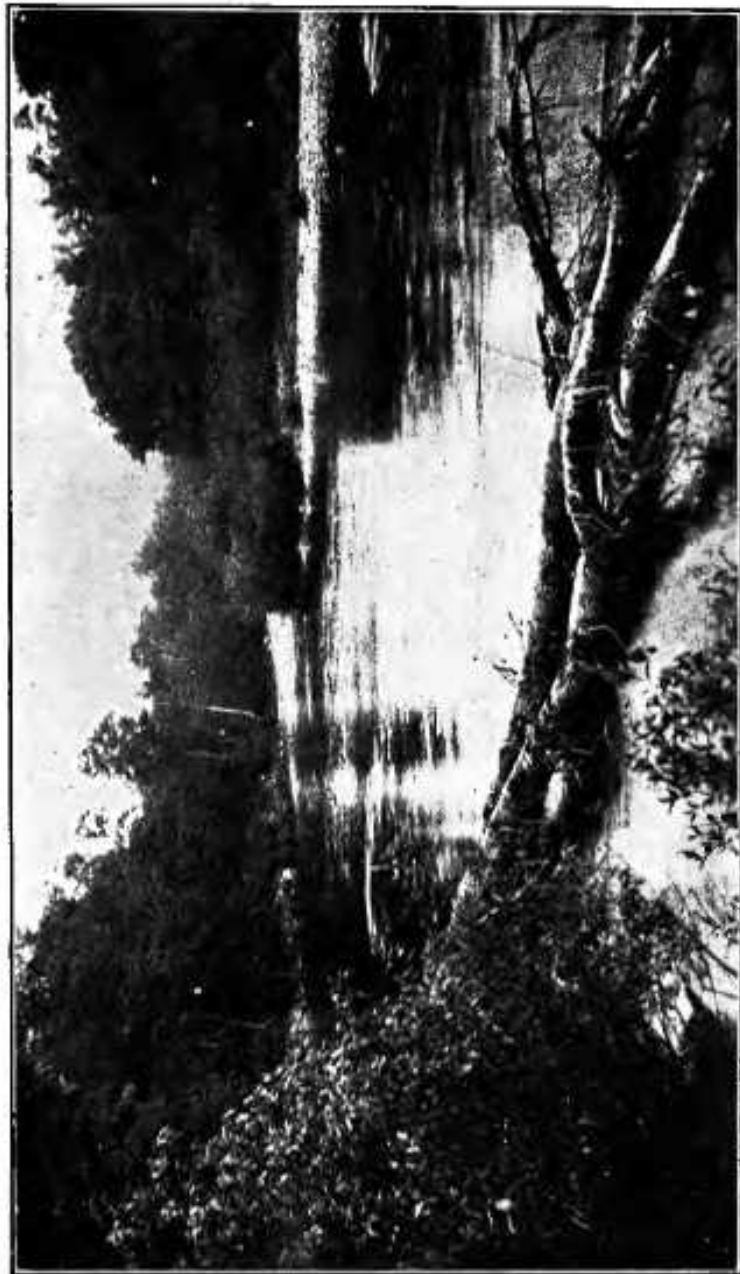


Photo by Dr. James E. Trocker

THE BEAUTIFUL NEVERSINK

STREAMCRAFT

AN ANGLING MANUAL

BY

GEO. PARKER HOLDEN, M.D., F.A.C.S.

Profusely Illustrated
Including Eight Color-Plates

The angler, only, is brought close, face to face with the flower and bird and insect life of the rich river-banks, the only part of the landscape where the hand of man has never interfered. —CHARLES KINGLEY



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STEWART & KIDD COMPANY

1919

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THIS LITTLE BOOK
IS ADMIRINGLY AND RESPECTFULLY
DEDICATED TO
AMERICA'S MOST-BELOVED FISHERMAN
REV. HENRY VAN DYKE, D.D., LL.D., D.C.L. (OXON.)
DISTINGUISHED DIVINE, AUTHOR, SPEAKER, AND
SERVANT OF HIS COUNTRY;
FORMERLY MINISTER OF THE BRICK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,
NEW YORK CITY; LATER PROFESSOR AT PRINCETON UNIVERSITY,
AND UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR TO THE NETHERLANDS;
CHAPLAIN LIEUTENANT-COMMANDER, U. S. N.
CHEVALIER OF THE FRENCH LEGION OF HONOR
—BUT MOST OF WHICH HE LEAVES BEHIND
WHEN HE GOES FISHING

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Why not be frank and say it without fear?
Of all our poets none I better like,
In certain moods and seasons, than van Dyke,
Whose mellow Bird-Songs make the birds more dear.

Song-sparrow, veery, whippoorwill—who else
Interprets them with sympathy more keen?
Who deeper into real bird-life has seen,
Or of their haunting music better tells?

Nor poet only. Deft with essay, tale,
And sketch (wherein the angler's art has place),
In all he writes we find peculiar grace,
A temper kind, and faith that does not fail.

Who owns the Mountains he has taught us plain;
The charm of Talkability is his;
Life, to his mind, a well-aimed Arrow is;
And Builders strive and labor not in vain.

With him we've sat where Friendship's Fire has burned;
There of far lakes and forests he has told;
We by dear Little Rivers' banks have strolled,
And of the mystic Yarrow Lily learned.

What wonder that we love this gentle friend?
Be his choice books our comrades to the end!

A. EMERSON PALMER

Preface

WHAT the novice angler at the stream-side particularly desires to be informed about is how to care for his rod, line, and reel; how properly to rig his rod and arrange his cast; how best to select his lure and to use it; how to describe the artificial fly which he has seen or has used successfully; how to identify at least the most prevalent natural insects along and on the water; and how to dress the artificials in imitation thereof. The construction of the split-bamboo rod—which naturally would include directions for all rod renovation and repairs—itsself requires a book, hence we reserve this for separate consideration.

Perhaps the time is not far distant when, as a wise conservation measure, the opening of the trout season at least will be greatly advanced and—except to childhood, whose irrefragable rights should not be violated—fly-fishing only will be allowed in most waters for the “spangled aristocrat of the hurrying stream.”

Because, then, it is with just these things an

PREFACE

angler most "wants to know" that this little book deals, we have called it "Streamcraft"—a streamside manual. So far as we are aware, some of this information is not elsewhere available, and the whole of it certainly not in this compact, pocket form; and that is why the author and the publishers believe it will prove of value to the numerous brotherhood of American fresh-water fishermen. The basis of what appears in the ensuing chapters was presented first in the *Forest and Stream* magazine. While of necessity comprising data correlated from many sources, these are always authoritative, duly accredited whenever possible, and most all of it is personally known by the writer to have been verified in practise.

If it be so, that there is no truer benefactor of a nation than he who makes any real contribution to the happiness of its people, then if we shall succeed in smoothing the way for the beginner in this most classical, delightful, wholesome, and accessible recreation of which these pages treat, we should be abundantly repaid for our labor; in any event we thus may partially repay our indebtedness, extending through the years, for the generous hospitality and emanating wisdom of all those genial souls encountered