

A FEW SUGGESTIONS AND RECOLLECTIONS.

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Look to your rods, reels and lines; go over the latter with jealous care, because if there is one thing in the world of sport more tantalizing than another, it is to find out the weak spot when you are reeling in a fine trout or bass. Though you be a devout church member, or even a Sunday School teacher, you are apt, when such a catastrophe occurs, to say naughty words that at other and less provoking times would send a shudder through your anatomy from heels to head.

Were you ever in such a fix yourself? If you haven't been then you never have been tempted and don't know what power of mind is necessary to withstand the temptation. I was once bait-fishing a stream up in Grey, alongside a distinguished member of the Methodist Church and one of its most devoted class teachers—a man of generous impulses and a real good sort, one of the kind who believed in legitimate sport and was fond both of the rod and gun. On the occasion referred to he had hooked an extra big trout and was exercising all the arts of the skilled angler to land the fish. He had worked with him for fully twenty minutes, and at last had him well spent and was gently reeling him in. Just then another big fish jumped close beside the captive, and his splash seemed to give a hidden link of strength to the one that was being taken in out of the wet, for he suddenly swerved, and though the tension was but for a second, the line parted near the tip and about thirty feet of the silken strand, with leader attached, all went down stream.

Inspection showed the weak spot in the line. It had been put away the previous autumn without being thoroughly dried out and oiled, hence the dire result which elicited from my companion the quaint remark: "If I wasn't a churchman, I'll be damned if I wouldn't swear,"