

## OUR TABLE.

HALF-HOURS WITH THE BEST AUTHORS—BY  
CHARLES KNIGHT.

WE have before called the attention of our readers to this valuable compilation. We have spoken of it in high terms, but not higher than its excellence claimed. It is really and literally what it pretends to be—Half-Hours with the best Authors—the thousand and one who have year after year, given to generation after generation, the richest intellectual feast which the epicure of literature can desire. Many half hours have we spent delightedly with one of these little volumes, when the heavier tomes from which the extracts are taken would have frightened us from the attempt. It is very pleasant, at some moment of vacuity—or more fashionably, *ennui*,—to be saved all the trouble of looking for something to amuse, and one who has this book within reach, will never when so troubled, be without a remedy. Three hundred and sixty-five is the number of the extracts, and these, though principally from the more modern authors, are intermingled with sparkling and spicy passages from those who may be safely named, the Modern Antique, and to suit all tastes, are composed of both poetry and prose. The occasion of this eulogy is the appearance, in four volumes, from the press of Wiley of New York, of a new edition of this work. Buy it, you who can afford it. It will never be an act to be repented of, and you will thank us for our advice whenever the book comes to your hand.

### FISHING IN AMERICA.

FRANK FORRESTER has been writing a book upon fishing and the game fish of America, as a pendant to his favorite book, the Wild Sports of the same limitless region. He has made a racy and an interesting book; interesting even to Canadians, for although the waters of this younger and wilder America are full of fishes the catching of which is a triumph of human skill, this part of the subject seems to be scarcely known

to him. He must spend a summer among our lakes and streams, and then he will write a supplement. In the meantime, all lovers of the gentle craft had better enjoy themselves over his book, which, they may take our word for it, is very pleasant as it is.

We cannot resist the temptation to extract a passage descriptive of the salmon—

The salmon is, to all intents, a fish of prey; and to this end every part of his frame is adapted, in the most perfect manner, by the master hand of nature. The elongated form of his body tapering forward and with the most gradually curved lines, like the entrance and the run of some swift-sailing barque, enables him to glide through the swift water in which he loves to dwell, displacing its particles with the least resistance, the powerful muscles and strong branched rays of his broad and vigorous caudal fin serving as a propeller, by which he can command an immense degree of momentum and velocity, and ascend the sharpest rapids.

No one who has once felt the arrowy rush of a fifteen pound salmon, when struck with the barbed steel, will be inclined to undervalue his strength, his speed or his agility; and the numerous and astonishing leaps which he is capable of making, to the height of many feet above the surface, either in attempting to rid himself of the hook, or in surmounting obstacles to his upward passage, in the shape of dams, flood-gates or cataracts, prove the exceeding elasticity, vigour and strength of his muscular system.

The prodigious power of sinew exhibited in the limbs and springy limbs of the quadrupeds of prey of the feline order is not superior in its degree to that possessed by this, the veritable monarch of fresh-water fishes; nor are the curved fangs and retractile talons more efficacious instruments to the lion and the tiger for the seizure of their victims, than are the five rows of sharp hooked teeth, with which the whole mouth of the salmon is bristled, for the prehension and detention of his slippery and active prey.

A fifteen pound salmon! let him try the Saguenay, on some occasion when the steamers are, in early summer, tripping it to that far-off region, and he will learn to increase his weights. But his enthusiasm must excuse his want of justice to the weight of this noble fish. We bid him heartily welcome to the fishing of our Canadian streams, and when he has done so, his enthusiasm, as well as his knowledge, will be increased.