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TORONTO.

The Angler and the Fisherman.

The pastime of fishing seems to have fallen, very generally, under the ban of popular ridicule, and, to a more limited extent, under that of condemnation. The average editor, with his keen catering to the mass of readers, does not consider his humorous column well "rounded up" without a fling at the veracity of a man who goes afishing. Again, and still more unfortunately, the acquaintances of an angler do not fail to take, cum grano, his description of a fishing excursion if it shows unusual success as to scores made. This popular opinion of the truthfulness of so large a class of trustworthy men, does not find public expression to the same extent in any other country than our own. With us it has become almost national in its character. Fortunately with less disastrous effect than that of many other popular prejudices, it has a similar origin; it was begotten in ignorance and grows in strength through the indisposition of most men to study the breadth and bearings of any subject which the consensus of popular opinion condemns or ridicules.

Again, the pastime of fishing is disapproved by many, who consider indulgence in it, by a man, as merely the brutal instinct developed from that of his boyhood habit of killing flies, in the gloaming, upon the window-pane. No one, say these sentimentalists, goes afishing except for the love of killing something.

The angler enters his protest against both of these verdicts, although he fully admits the preponderance of evidence against the class of men among whom he has been ignorantly placed by his censors. He frankly acknowledges that the quarry he pursues is often the same; that the lures he uses to entice the fish are somewhat similar; that the environment of his pastime is often identical; but—and just here he draws the line—the animus of his pursuit is widely apart from that of the man who chucks his bated hook into the water and incontinently yanks out his victim. The one is a butcher, the other a

student of nature and of her water fauna.

Doubtless on the 4th of July last, over a million of fish-hooks were cast into the waters, fluvial and lacustrine, of the United States, but not one in a hundred who handled them felt the slightest interest in the life-history of the fish attracted by the lures thrown to them. The greater number were pot-fishers, the lesser, anglers.—Field and Stream.

In Baltimore the firm of Dumont & Co. had collected a large number of parts of gulls for shipment to New York milliners, but T. S. Palmer, assistant chief of the U. S. Biological Survey, stepped in and on behalf of the Government and the State of Maryland seized the whole stock and arrested those who are responsible. The new Lacey bill is working.

Youth (whose dog has dropped overboard)—"Captain, stop the vessel."

Captain—"I am not allowed to do that except when a man falls overboard."

Youth (as he jumps into the water)—"Now you can stop."

In recent years, Germany, France and Austria, as well as the United States, have become greatly interested in breeding the finer types of Belgian hare, and the demand thus created has drawn heavily upon the resources of English breeders and has raised the prices in England to a mark that seems extravagant. Three hundred dollars, or even more, have been paid for single specimens, to which price must be added the cost of bringing them to this country. The hare first attracted attention in America about nine years ago. A few specimens were exhibited at the World's Fair, and later, at many poultry shows. But no great interest was aroused until within four or five years. Now there are several associations throughout the country. Several large exhibitions have been held in Boston, New York, and other eastern cities, and at Los Angeles, in February, 1900, was held the largest and most successful exhibition ever held anywhere, with the highest

prizes. Los Angeles has thus become, within the past two years, the centre of the Belgian hare industry in America. And within this period of two years at least fifteen hundred rabbitries have been established in Southern California, a section having a population of only about 30,000 people.

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