

nature's beautiful domain. They drink only from the purest fountains, and subsist upon the choicest food their pellucid streams supply. Not to say that all fish that inhabit clear and sparkling waters are game-fish: for there are many such, of symmetrical form and delicate flavor, that take neither bait nor fly. But it is self-evident that no fish which inhabit foul or sluggish waters can be "game-fish." It is impossible from the very circumstances of their surroundings and associations. They may flash with tinsel and tawdry attire; they may strike with the brute force of a blacksmith, or exhibit the dexterity of a prize-fighter, but their low breeding and vulgar quality cannot be mistaken. Their haunts, their very food and manner of eating, betray their grossness.

Into the noble Neepigon which rolls its crystal tide into Lake Superior, sluggish creeks debouch at intervals, whose inky waters, where they join the main river, are as distinctly defined as the muddy Missouri is at its confluence with the Mississippi. In the limpid waters of the one the silvery trout disport; among the rushes that line the oozy shores of the other, gaunt pike of huge proportions lie motionless as logs, and wallow in the mud and sunshine. Surely mere instinct should decide our preference between the two species of fish, even if nature had not so plainly drawn her demarcating lines. By the comparison the pike must yield his place in the category of game-fish, even though he be a bold biter and voracious. His habits are offensive, and he feeds not on such food as make fish noble. Trout and salmon cultivate the society of no such "frauds" as he. They mingle voluntarily with none but the select coterie of their own kith and kin, and carefully avoid the contamination of grovelling bottom-fish. They will not thrive in confined and muddy waters, but die eventually, crowded out by their brutish companions: or they become altogether demoralized, losing their activity, their brilliancy of color, beauty of form, and delicacy of flavor. On nothing does the flavor and general appearance of a trout or a salmon depend so much as the character of the water in which he lives. There is no flesh of fish so rank and repulsive to the taste as that of a trout inhabiting a muddy pond where pickerel, bull-heads and slimy eels do congregate, and whose food are the slugs and decaying animal and vegetable deposits on the bottom. Even in waters which flow through cedar and tamarac swamps or boggy meadows, the flavor of the trout is much impaired. No matter in whatsoever locality he may abide, unless it has the gravelly bottom and the clear cold water of the secret spring or dashing stream, the trout will become degenerate, and bear the traits and marks of the evil

company he keeps and the unhappy place he calls his home. It is these varying marks of body and tints of flesh, produced by extraneous causes, that so greatly confuse the attempts to determine and classify the apparent varieties of the Salmo family.

#### COST OF FISHING.

It has been ascertained to an almost mathematical nicety that it will cost the metropolitan angler *one dollar* for every pound of trout he takes, no matter where or under what circumstances he fishes. If he go to trout preserves in the vicinity of the cities, he will be charged a dollar per pound for all the fish he catches, or several dollars per day for fish that he may, but does not catch. Should he select the streams or ponds within one hundred miles or so of town, he will find them depleted by much fishing; and the expenses of his journey and contingencies will bring the cost of the few fish he takes up to the inevitable dollar per pound. Or should he prefer remote localities where trout can not only be had for the catching, but swarm in such abundance as absolutely to embarrass the angler, the measure of his expenses will still be a dollar per pound. At the same time, he will be unable to enjoy the pleasure of bringing his fish home, or even of eating more than a few of them on the spot. The same conditions are relatively true of salmon, or any other description of genuine game-animals or game-fish. If the angler hire a river in Labrador or Canada, it is quite probable that he may catch a thousand pounds of salmon in the course of a month's fishing; but the price of his lease and his expenses for travelling, guides, boat, provisions, outfit, and *et ceteras*, to say nothing of time consumed, will foot up a dollar per pound. Or, if he go down to Long Island for a couple of days, and capture a dozen pounds of trout at the regulation price demanded for the privilege of fishing, his expenses will be found to reach \$12.

#### FISHING AT CHESTER, N. S.

It is a great satisfaction to be able to exhibit the trophies of one's skill or endeavor. The two greatest rewards of effort are the accomplishment of something to be done, and the praise which follows success. Indeed, they are the only substantial pleasures of life. Poor satisfaction is it to catch fish when you cannot bring them home; indifferent reward to contemplate by one's self a hardwon conquest after days of travel and nights of toil, with only a wilderness stream to reflect the image of his disgust and discontent. Chester is one of the very few places where the luxury of fishing can be enjoyed without this alloy. And there is not only one river, but *three*, within six miles of your home. You can drive half