

distance till it joins the main or back line. One word as to this back line: be sure it is really smooth, as with a good fish on, one that gives you a good deal of play, the friction with the rings will be such as to render your line useless afterwards, and may cause you to lose your fish. I find I have no more space, and must leave the rod and flies to be used for salmon, and my remarks on trout fishing for my next article.

Just one word more as to gut and the difficulty of getting the best. The very best, of extraordinary strength, has sold wholesale for as much as £7 per 100 strands, this being now paid even in Marseilles, from whence it comes. A writer in the *Field* says, "Thirty years ago there could be bought a superior gut, now unobtainable, owing to the extinction of the silk worm that produced it." In choosing your gut, to prove it is equally round and not flat, roll it between your fingers and thumb, then if is not round the defect can be discovered at once.

WALTER LEIGH.

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[SAMUEL JOYCE.]

She can peel and boil potatoes, make a salad of tomatoes, but she doesn't know a Latin noun from Greek;
And so well she cooks a chicken that your appetite 'twould quicken, but she cannot tell what's modern from antique;
She knows how to set a table and make order out of babel, but she doesn't know Euripides from Kant;
Once at making pies I caught her—Jove! an expert must have taught her—but she doesn't know true eloquence from rant;
She has quite a firm conviction one ought only to read fiction, and she doesn't care for science, not a bit;
And the way she makes her bonnets, sure is worth a thousand sonnets, but she doesn't yearn for "culture," not a whit;
She can make her wraps and dresses till a fellow fast confesses that there's not another maid half as sweet;
She's immersed in home completely, where she keeps all things so neatly, but from Browning not a line can she repeat.
Well, in fact, she's just a woman, gentle, lovable and human, and her faults she is quite willing to admit;
'Twas foolish to have tarried, so we went off and were married, and I tell you I am mighty glad of it.

Tales about Barnum are all the go now, and the following from one of his ringmasters, is about as good as most of them:

"I remember one occasion in particular when we had pitched our tents at a large town in Pennsylvania Barnum came round the first night as usual before the performance, and found the sacred bull stretched on the ground."

"Dead, hey?" remarked Barnum

"As a coffin nail, sir," replied the keeper, "cholera I take it."

"Send a man for that bull we saw two miles back here. The 'Great and Only' isn't going to fall short of sacred bulls in a cattle district like this."

"At that moment a man came up and observed in a business-like way, 'The monkeys have pulled all the fur off the rabbits; snatched 'em regular bald-headed.'"

"Put them in a separate cage, and label them 'From the ruins of Pompeii.'"

"All right, sir," replied the man, "but what are we to do for dromedaries? The stock's running low, and we've advertised that big lot."

"Barnum tore a leaf from his diary, and handed him the following memorandum, with the order:

"Put a blanket on the horse that went blind yesterday, and tack this on him in a conspicuous place." The following is what the man read:

"NOTICE, the hump usually found on this dromedary has been absorbed as nutriment; is expected out in a few days."

"Yes, Barnum had large resources." And the ex-ringmaster solemnly contemplated the wreaths of smoke from his pipe as they rose into the ambient air.

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