

"Vivat  Regina."

* Queen * Hotel. *

187 "Mr. Sheraton has fitted up a Hotel which is a credit to Halifax and the Maritime Provinces. Every visitor to Halifax will find at the Queen all the equipments of a first class hotel." *The Sun*.

188 "The 'Windsor' of Halifax." *Montreal Gazette*.

189 "The cuisine is the best of any hotel in the Maritime Provinces." *Ibid.*

We are still improving and intend to keep on so until the
QUEEN IS THE BEST HOTEL IN CANADA.

A. B. SHERATON, . . . Manager.

FISHING.—No III.

I think that in my last article I was going to start on an expedition for which I was not thoroughly prepared. It is just as useful for a fisherman to present himself at the water's side without knowledge and tackle to carry out that knowledge, as it is for a lawyer to go into court without a properly constructed brief. Therefore, I think it better to give in a small degree those ends and means which may aid our Nova Scotian fishermen, in the bringing back of the biggest bags on record.

There is no doubt but that the man who fishes with bait at the commencement of the season will profit to the greater extent. One simple reason for this, is that the fish having been located in the deep water during the winter, have not yet come to the surface and have not seen any fly that may have shown itself. Do not think that I advocate fishing with minnow or worm in preference to the fly; far from it, I myself am just as ambitious to catch a good sized fish by the aid of the smallest of flies and the finest of gut as any man; but still I fain would say that rather than catch no fish at all, I would descend to means which the hypercritical call "poaching."

Bait fishing for trout may be spoken of under three heads, worm or maggot, live minnow and artificial bait. The best worm to use is that called the "lob," but I cannot say I have seen in this country: not being available, the next best is a "brandling," which on the hook penetrating it will give the fisherman's olfactory nerves such a shock that he almost feels as if he would do without its assistance in future.

In muddy water, maggots may be used to advantage. To procure these it is only necessary to kill your neighbor's cat, which after having hung up for a sufficient time will provide the required allurement. Now, in using either of these baits in fast-running and shallow water it is necessary that a *paternoster* should be used. A *paternoster* is a very simple contrivance, consisting of a small weight attached to the end of the gut while the hook is placed from a foot to 18 in., as may be required, higher up the line; the benefit of the weight is that it keeps the bait within the distance of the bottom of the stream which you require, not allowing it to be carried away on top of the water by the force of the current. To my idea this is the only fair way of using either of these kinds of bait, for to see a man on a fine sunshiney day seated in a boat on a lake with an unruffled surface fishing with either of these, reminds me of Doctor Johnson's remark anent fishing "a fool at one end of the rod and a worm at the other." The reason why, as a fisherman, I say this, is that nine cases out of ten, a fish being hooked swallows the bait to such an extent that it is utterly useless for *playing* purposes.

Fishing with live minnows is undoubtedly the most deadly, more especially with big fish. Trout and salmon are only beaten in voracity by a shark, and by what in England is called the fresh water shark,—the pike. A live minnow encumbered with a hook naturally holds out great inducements to either of these fish, for it is a well known fact, that they will make their attack on that which they consider the weakest.

The artificial minnow is far preferable in every way, giving the fish a greater chance and allowing more scope for the fisherman's skill. Certainly on some occasions, the color of the water being in its favour, the artificial minnow is as deadly as its live prototype, but this is an exceptional occasion, and as a matter of fact a man to be able to bring home a good basket of fish, gained by the aid of a spinning minnow, has earned that fare of fish as honestly as the most conservative of fly fishermen. By giving a good word for artificial minnow fishing do not think for a moment that I uphold those of the piscatorial craft who having patronized L. E. Brookes & Co's. establishment to the extent of a hamper which nominally contains enough for four, but which in reality is sufficient for ten, and having hired a boat and a man willing to row in it simply allow their bait to trail behind them, virtually asking the fish to help themselves while they help *themselves* to the contents of the hamper. Such as these are no fishermen, they are simply out for a day in the country. In my next I will commence with fly fishing and answer in full a query sent me by a well known angler.

WALTER LEIGH.

SOME men have actually gone so far as to fall in love with their own ugliness, and a Yankee story tells us how in a certain town-ship, the citizens used annually to present a handsome jack-knife as the reward for the champion ugly man for the current year. Once upon a time, runs this legend, the holder of the jack-knife having carried it off many years running, met a very ill-favoured new settler. Covering the person with his revolver, he said quietly, "Stop, stranger, for I'm going for to shoot you." "Why so?" inquired the newcomer. "Well, you see," explained the champion, "I've had the jack-knife for ugliness in this place a good many years and have got kind of proud of it, and I'm afraid if you stop here you may get it away from me, so I'm going to remove you." "Shoot away, stranger," exclaimed the menaced man, surveying him contemptuously from head to foot; "shoot away right off, for if I'm uglier than you I don't want to live any longer."

THE eccentric H. H. Breckenridge, one of the judges of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, when a young man was challenged to fight a duel by a British officer, whom he answered as follows:

"I have two objections to this duel matter—the one is, lest I should hurt you; the other is, lest you should hurt me. I don't see what good it would do me to put a ball through your body. I could make no use of you when dead for any culinary purpose, as I would do a rabbit or turkey. I am no cannibal to feed upon the flesh of men. Why, then, shoot down a human creature, of whom I could make no use? A buffalo would do better. You might make a good barbecue, it is true, being of the nature of a racoon or opossum; but people are not in the habit of barbecuing anything that is human now. And as to your hide, it is not worth taking off—being little better than a two-year-old colt's. So much for you.

"As to myself, I don't like to stand in the way of anything that is hurtful. I am under the impression that you might hit me. This being the case, I think it most advisable to stay in the distance. If you mean to try your pistol, take some object—a tree or a barn door—about my dimensions. If you hit that, send me word, and I will acknowledge that if I had been in the same place you might also have hit me."

A restaurant-keeper, noticing that two of his customers were evidently trying to eat their suppers in the shortest possible time, lest they should miss the boat which was waiting at the wharf, thought it would be very funny to frighten them. Accordingly he went into a back room and gave a remarkably perfect imitation of the steamboat's whistle. The joke worked well. The men heard the sound and rushed to the boat, and the joker laughed loud and long, until suddenly it occurred to him that the men had gone off without paying for their suppers. Then he stopped laughing.