

Black Bass Fishing.

To those, however, who prefer still fishing for the small-mouthed black bass in a spot where he is to be found in his finest quality, let them enlist the services of either of the above persons, and make the acquaintance of the deep holes below the falls. Here the right royal sport will bear comparison with the best that any water affords. The water has a clear drop of forty feet, and the width of the falls is about one hundred yards. The choicest fishing is on the right hand side of the river, and the formation of the rocks there is such that when the water is not too high the angler can find abundant foot-hold on which to locate and reach the choicest pools.

My friend, did you ever hook a four-pound black bass with an eleven-ounce rod and tackle to match, in a six-miles-an-hour current? If you did you have not lived in vain, but to those who have yet to enjoy that luxury, there is a treat in store that no amount of description can do justice to. The representatives of their family that you get acquainted with here are as different from the even-tempered bass of placid water as a cross-grained Scotch terrier is from a poodle dog. A two-pounder here is a champion light fighter, and when you tackle a three or four-pounder (no uncommon occurrence) you have got both hands full.

The moment he feels the sting of the steel he is all fight, and the fisherman who hopes to land him must be quick-witted, keen-eyed, even-tempered and supple-wristed. Like the flash of an arrow he will try to break water, and with a spring two feet above the surface he will, by a dexterous twist, seek to free himself from the hook. If the barb be firmly planted, he will perchance try a lightning-like rush down stream, then double like a flash, dive for the deepest hole, and, by fierce struggling among the rocks, try every artifice to regain his liberty. Skill and patience are the only qualities that will checkmate him, and though the battle be long and fierce, his time comes at last, the victim is steered for the landing net; and though, when you land him high and dry, a