

FISHING—No. VII.

And on this sweet day, when on going out, the wind meets you at every corner and says, "You fool, why did you not by spending more money with your tailor, prepare for such a day?" and still goes on whistling around you a yet more cheery tune (?) of days to come, when it will be out of your power to feel its keenness that I have now to write on fishing. This is the time, too, when a visitor picks up from the drawing room table—while the lady of the house is spending such an inordinate amount of time in preparing that toilette, which will eventually captivate—an illustrated magazine in which he will see the prettiest of devices all in praises of—Spring! (Oh, gracious, has the roof come off at last, then, or can it be, that noise is due to the sighings of the servant girls for their warriors, who dare not face the elements?) In our picture of Spring are, in the language of the poets, maidens fair; to some prudish minds airily clad, gambolling with little lambs and dancing in the dells through which trills the rippling brook. The picturesque follower of Pan is piping, as is his delight, to his meandering herd; the trees, all in their garb of lively green, are made still more alive by the notes of unseen birds, who return thanks for having lived to another season. This picture of Spring finishes up by giving the idea of two lovers wandering through dew laden meads, lost to all save to themselves individually.

Such still is the portrait given of Spring. Then if you please, turn to the letter press; the poet makes Spring pall upon you, the thing is too good, no promise here, its Spring of the "blue blooded" type, and its here now, encircling you with arms that a modern divorce court could hardly unloosen. Now, having taken all these sentiments and having got satiated with sweet scented bowers, woods made glorious with the vocal strains of unseen birds, the dew as diamonds scattered on the grass, you say "What an ass I am not to have known all this before!" Off you go, order innumerable check waistcoats, invest in summery unmentionables, and issue forth with a birds eye tie to take a birds eye view of the surroundings.—This is what takes the glamour from your eyes; this is what meets you; something whistles round you, you can't see it, because your eyes are filled up with dust and other abominations—you look for blue clouds, which you were promised, they are not there,—then,—and then only then, you go home, sadly,—remove Stanford's masterpiece of a spring suit, get into bed, send for the family doctor, in the meantime ordering up unlimited supplies of hot gruel (and rum) finally collapsing to an attack of La Grippe, heartily in your haste asserting "all men are liars" more especially artists and poetical writers in Magazines.

Before starting to give a few hints on how to use the various materials made for salmon and trout fishing, I would answer a query to hand, of what to make a good dressing for lines? The best I know of, and which has always given satisfaction, consists equal parts of raw linseed oil, and best copal varnish, boil this mixture till it singes a feather (this should be done out of doors, owing to the inflammable nature of the solution,) when cold put the line into soak—a week will be enough for a solid plaited line—when thoroughly saturated, on the first fine day, put the line out to dry, stretching at its full length, fastened at both ends, and all superfluous dressing being carefully removed with a dry cloth—a line should not be used for quite six months after dressing.

Flies.—There is more difference of opinion about salmon flies than with any accessory of the fishing art. Some people assert it is necessary to use different patterns every month, others that these same patterns are only suitable on certain rivers, and that it is useless to fish with any other. Another theory is that certain colours must be used on certain days. My own idea is that it depends far more on the 'colour' than on the 'pattern,' this seems far more plausible, for no doubt, the fish are able to see the flies far better on some rivers than on others, whether this is brought about by the colour of the water, or the surroundings I will not venture an opinion. Once fishing in the Shannon, and only having provided

myself with flies I had taken from England, in place of the gaudy Shannon flies, that the boatmen of that river delight in, I was forced to use what I had. Much to the chagrin of these boatmen, my more sober tinted lure did more damage than theirs, and they said they could only account for it, by the fact of the fish being tired of the Shannon flies. But there was one thing against this, and that was that every fish I caught had sea lice on them, so I presume that those that were tired of the gaudier description of fly, had not yet returned from the sea! A man I know, who has accounted for as many salmon as most, never puts wings on his flies at all; these flies are made of various colours of seal's fur and mohair, with hackles to match. Again, far before the 'pattern' is the 'size' of the fly used. The large gaudy flies used on a large river like the Shannon, are not suitable for ordinary-sized rivers.

On arriving at the river, the angler should carefully examine the pool he is about to fish, so as to find out the colour and depth of the stream, and whether it be rapid running or not. If it is deep and rapid and coloured after a fresh, then a large sized fly should be used. In spring and autumn salmon will be taken with a larger fly than in the summer. It is impossible to lay down any real rule for selecting the fly to be used, the art of doing so is only gained by long experience. When a man is seen continually changing his flies, the sport is bad, and the fact is the fish are not moving, change of fly may, perhaps bring about better sport but I very much doubt it. Again, it is said this fish gets tired of seeing the flies, and shy by being so fished over, but the opinion of many fishermen is that it is the angler, who gets tired of casting with no return. There is one great thing that enhances the pleasure of a salmon fisherman in being able to tie his own flies. Some there are who go so far as to say that a man cannot be a first class angler if he cannot do this,—still this is going too far, for on the same principle they should also make all the gear they use. But after all fly tying is really a very interesting diversion for a wet afternoon, that is if the performer is of an equable temperament.

Again there is the satisfaction of knowing that if you land your fish it is not only by your skill as a fisherman, but also it was done with a fly of his own making. In selecting bought flies great care should be taken to see they are firmly tied.

To test this, hold the bend of the hook between finger and thumb of the left hand, and the head, where the wing is attached in those of the right hand, if the wing is firmly put on it cannot be moved, but if badly tied, the wing can be moved easily right and left away from its proper position. The loop of the fly should be carefully examined, test them by giving them a good strong pull. Before a fly is used the hook should be tested by holding the shank between the finger and thumb, and inserting the point in a piece of soft wood, giving it a moderately hard pull. Please do not think that I distrust the goods purveyed by our local trades-

!

Say, Come in and See Us!

All you who are looking for Best Goods at Lowest Prices!

We keep in stock many things not usually kept by Grocers' generally. Try our Royal Beefsteak Sauce, and Imperial Tomato Ketchup, as sold by us by the pint, quart or gallon.

We are anxious at all times to see new faces. We will endeavor to make it worth your time to call and see us often. Just bring a little list with you and see if we don't surprise you. Mary Ann and John were here last week, and they were so well pleased that they resolved to become customers. We think you will too.

Are you looking for Good Tea, then try our special 5 lbs for \$1.00.
Our Wine and Liquor department is complete.

L. E. BROOKES & CO.,

Telephone 396,

BRUNSWICK ST.