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Commissioner of Waterways..... J. W. WATSON
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CLERKS OF DISTRICT COURTS.
District No. 1..... J. W. WATSON
District No. 2..... J. W. WATSON
District No. 3..... J. W. WATSON
District No. 4..... J. W. WATSON
District No. 5..... J. W. WATSON
District No. 6..... J. W. WATSON
District No. 7..... J. W. WATSON
District No. 8..... J. W. WATSON
District No. 9..... J. W. WATSON
District No. 10..... J. W. WATSON

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YOUTH'S FINNY FRIENDS.

THE SORTS OF FISH THAT FURNISH SPORT FOR YOUNG ANGLERS.

They Range in Size from the Dainty and Delicately Minnow to the Ugly and Overgrown Catfish—Where to Find the Gamy Shiner.

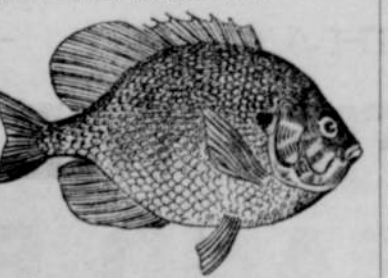


HAT fishing is an art, the man who has learned after many arduous efforts how to throw a long line lightly with a cast of flies does not need any book to tell him. His many unsuccessful attempts proved that he was not a hunter of game fish. Yet that he was born a fisherman, or at least with love of the sport, his own early life has shown. Does not he remember how he played "hooky" in order to lure the sunfish, the bass, the "horn" dace, the growler, the sucker and the catfish from their native streams? Often he has wandered to the nook made sacred by the successes of other seasons, and there has dropped his pinhook and anglet from school time until dusk, nor suffered the pangs of hunger while he felt a bite.

No true fisherman—he who angles instead of arguing—will scorn the little fellows, the pumpkin seed of fish that were the companions (however enforced) of his brookside idling. Still he can feel the thrill as of a sunfish nibbling at his hook, the rapture when it is landed and the delicate apprehension of its acute spines when removing the hook from its gills. The sunfish undoubtedly appeals more to memory than any other common fish. It has a wide geographical range, being found from Lake Michigan through all the middle and western states, and along the Atlantic coast so far south as the Carolinas. It has many varieties, and in consequence many names.

Pumpkin seed they call it in some states, and in Massachusetts it is known as bream. But by any title the sunfish always affords sport for boys, and even men need not despise it. It is clever. Let no one think it loves the mud like the stupid bullhead, or after a day's unwearying chase he will go home to be laughed at. No; its habits and habits are not unlike those of the bass, except that instead of hugging close to a rock it prefers a moving shadow. It likes the play of light and shade, and if the angler has in his neighborhood an old wooden bridge with big cracks and holes in the planks he has only to get beneath it and cast his line. The sunfish are there, and if he is acute enough to detect their gentle nibbling they won't be there much longer.

Boys a little more grown up, and in more piscatorially favored places, go after the dace or shiners, "horned dace" we used to call them, because of the barbels that project from each corner of the mouth. There is nothing lazy about the dace, and the man who knows what it is to spin and troll—perhaps the highest and most exciting forms of inland fishing—can always enjoy himself when the delicate, shy, silvery dace are his guest. The dace thrive best in ponds and lakes, and in such parts of rivers as have a slow current. They are prolific everywhere. They are at their best, so far as latitude is concerned, in the southern region. In certain states dace are pronounced the game fish of America, following the lead of New York, and although they hardly deserve the honor, yet their timidity, their freedom from voracity—for of all fishes they are the least addicted to animal food—are traits which render their pursuit difficult and entertaining. The larvae of insects and worms should be used as bait.



THE COMMON POND FISH.

The dace live to a great age, even to 100 years, but they lose their silvery sheen, their scales becoming gray with time. A gentleman relates a story of a dace of his boyhood which is worth preserving. It should be stated that the dace is extraordinarily tenacious of existence, and after being taken by hook can be kept alive in moss for weeks if fed on bread steeped in milk. Well, out of a pond near Buffalo, when he was a boy of twelve, this man had taken a beautiful, shining dace, and from mischief had wound a brass wire around its head, fastening each end to the two barbels or horns at the corners of its mouth. He then returned it to the pond. That is forty years ago, and last summer, while on a visit to his youthful haunts, he went fishing and caught a fish—a dace—but no longer young and silvery—around whose head he found a piece of corroded wire. Was it the same? Authorities are inclined to think it was.

The catfish was mentioned disrespectfully in a preceding paragraph. It is stupid, mud loving and hideous—we grant all the adjectives—but what man can find it in his heart to hate what has given him so much excitement in days gone by? Bullheads, bullpouts and catfish are the same, and if they vary greatly in flesh in different parts of the country, being esteemed a great delicacy in some places, while in others they are discarded as poisonous, in looks they are about the same everywhere.

It is just because they are so hideous and threatening that lads delight in catching them. Every boy has a little of the St. George in him, and every bullhead has a good deal of the dragon. Another point in their favor is that they

will bite at almost anything in the shape of animal substance—raw meat, and even red flannel, because it looks like raw meat. After being hooked they pull hard for awhile, for the bullhead is a powerful fish as well as greedy, and to get one to the surface is literally like taking a bone from a dog—it is a dead lug entirely. In size the catfish varies from a few inches in length, and not exceeding a few ounces in weight, up to a hundred or even a hundred and fifty pounds.

The latter are found in Lake Huron, and in smaller numbers in the great western rivers. Quite an aristocrat in comparison with bullheads is the yellow perch, which is widely diffused, with small variation of size, shape and color, through all the inland fresh waters of the United States. Of course you could not have persuaded the boys of the writer's time that a "rough yellow" and a "sharp nose" were of the same species; probably the small boys of today would laugh at the same assertion, but it is nevertheless true, and the perch mentioned, and others like the white and slender yellow, are but accidental varieties. The "roughs" are the best biters and the best fighters. More than three times out of six a perch will flop off an ordinary hook before the boy at the pole can haul it in. It can pull, too, pretty strongly for a few minutes, and trout fishermen who get them on the line are frequently deceived. The "roughs" also grow to good size, and the trout who can take one of them home feels that he needs no other excuse for his disobedience.

The best of the family are the yellow pike perch, called the "glass eye" in Michigan and Ohio. They afford splendid sport to the angler, particularly if he will let himself be guided by the small boys of the neighborhood who know all the



WHERE THE BULLHEAD BITES.

haunts of this fish. The best time for fishing is in the dusk of the evening, and the best place is at the foot of rapids or beneath mill dams. Any dead fish bait on the hook will be taken by the "glass eye," but it prefers minnows to worms and worms to crayfish. In the south the "growler" takes the place of the "glass eye." The former is a fish of the salmon family, and is very abundant in the Carolinas, where it grows to the length of two feet.

In the inland waters of North Carolina the same fish is known by the boys as the Welshman. They fish for it with minnows, and now that the latter—beautiful little fish, which the smallest urchins consider their lawful prey—have been mentioned I cannot do better than to end this article with a few words about them. In every part of the country where there is a swift running stream with a gravelly bottom, and in the shallows of every pond or lakelet, the "minnies" are found, so every boy knows them as soon as he begins to wade.

A worm tied to a string is sufficient to catch the tiny creatures, and the angler, who now scarce smiles when he baskets a big salmon, well remembers his shout of delight when as a child he pulled out the fish before it had time to disgorge its ill gotten dinner. So we are back to "little wanton boys" and first principles. WILLIS STELL.

Recent Patents.

One of the recent patents is a contrivance resembling a derrick erected over an open vessel; an endless cord carries a little human figure up and down, first at the top of the derrick and then to the bottom of the tureen. You couldn't guess what it is, but an inscription tells you it is "McGinty in the soup." Another brilliant idea is an automatic waterfall, with real water, upon which a magic lantern is to reflect a series of advertisements. A patent was taken out not long ago upon "an automatic device for illustrating the method of using a new cuff button," the automaton being warranted not to indulge in profanity.

Captain Dick's Proposed Expedition.

The announcement that an expedition is being organized to "explore the state of Washington" sounds like a burlesque, but there is a region in that state shut in by the Olympic mountains and containing some 3,000 square miles of which very little is known. Around it are a few lumber camps, and in it are Indians of a rather independent character, and so warlike that other Indians avoid them.

From vague reports it is believed that the region abounds in streams flowing toward the center from the inclosing mountains; that these streams swarm with fine fish, while the intervening forests are full of game, and there is a chance of discovering rich mines in the hills. Mr. R. A. Falkenberg, known to his intimates as "Captain Dick," will lead the expedition, which will strike for the wild interior as soon as the April sun has melted the snow from the passes by which it can be reached. The United States has made no surveys in the region, and so the first settlers will be monarchs of all they survey.

THE AUTHOR OF "JERRY."

Sarah Barnwell Elliott Wrote the Story Which Has Created So Much Comment. Since the story of "Jerry" began last June in Scribner's Magazine speculation has been rife as to who was the author. The main question in the discussion was, Is it a man or a woman?

Well, the author of "Jerry" is a woman, and a tiny little woman at that. You wouldn't believe to look at her that she could hold so much knowledge of political economy, of men and women and human nature and the world in general as she has put into the story of "Jerry."

Miss Elliott wrote the story three years ago, before she went abroad. It was not the result, she says, of any actual knowledge of such a life as she pictures. The hero, Jerry, is purely a creature of her imagination, and the scenes are drawn from what she has read rather than from observation. Her object in publishing the story anonymously was that she might get the honest opinion of the critics, and the result has been most flattering.



MISS ELLIOTT. Her father was Bishop Elliott, of Georgia, and her brother was Bishop Elliott, of Tennessee, both of whom are dead. The family, before the war, were very wealthy. They were related to the Barnwells, of South Carolina, for whom Miss Elliott was named.

The Elliotts suffered the common fate of most wealthy southerners; their fortunes were swallowed up and they were left with comparatively little. Miss Elliott was always fond of literature, and more than ten years ago she wrote a story which Lippincott published in book form, and of which the plates are still kept. Later she wrote short stories for The Independent, one of the best of which was "The Simple Heart."

Last year she contributed a sketch to Harper's called "The Ex-Brigadier," which received favorable criticism. Her greatest work, however, has been done in "Jerry," and her reputation as an author is well assured. Dealing as it does with a great issue of the time—the labor question—"Jerry" has touched the heart of the masses. The hero is a man of the people, and the story is essentially for the people. Miss Elliott has another story nearly completed which will be published during the coming year.

The author of "Jerry" is not a beautiful woman, but she is very pleasing. She has big, pathetic gray eyes, wide apart; her hair is light brown, and her speech has the soft southern intonation which is always charming. She is strong in pathos and equally strong in humor, and she has a quality rare among