The complete angler

Walton Izaak
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Author: Walton Izaak

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PORTRAIT OF WALTON
FROM A PICTURE BY HOUSEMAN
THE
COMPLETE ANGLER
OR
Contemplative Mans
Recreation
The first part by
IZAAK WALTON,
the second by
CHARLES COTTON

ENGRAVED TITLE, DESIGNED BY T. STOTHARD. RA.
THE COMPLETE ANGLER

OR

The Contemplative Man's Recreation

BEING A DISCOURSE OF RIVERS FISH-PONDS
FISH AND FISHING WRITTEN BY

IZAAK WALTON

AND

INSTRUCTIONS HOW TO ANGLE FOR A TROUT OR
GRAYLING IN A CLEAR STREAM BY

CHARLES COTTON

WITH ORIGINAL MEMOIRS AND NOTES BY
SIR HARRIS NICOLAS, K.C.M.G.

And Sixty Illustrations from Designs by Stothard and Inskipp

London

CHATTO AND WINDUS, PICCADILLY

1875
To the

REVEREND HERBERT HAWES, D.D

Prebendary of the Cathedral Church of Salisbury,

This Edition of the Complete Angler,

As a Mark of Respect

for the Descendant of its venerable Author, and in Acknowledgment

of the

Assistance which he has afforded towards its Completion,

is respectfully inscribed by his most obedient

humble Servant,

N. HARRIS NICOLAS.
PREFACE.

THE extreme popularity of the Complete Angler has been so fully proved by its numerous editions, that it can scarcely be necessary to solicit the favour of the public towards one more carefully edited, and more highly embellished, than any that has hitherto appeared.

Although much had been done to illustrate that beautiful Pastoral, it was still susceptible of pictorial embellishments of a superior character; and although great trouble had already been taken to discover information respecting Walton and Cotton, the subject was not exhausted.

The following observations will show the particular claims of these volumes to the patronage of the public.

Of the embellishments little need be said, because the merits or demerits of works of art speak for themselves. The scenery was painted on the spot by the late Thomas Stothard, Esq., R.A., by whose ingenious pencil all the other Illustrations,
except the Portraits and Fishes, were drawn. The Fishes were painted from nature by James Inskipp, Esq., who, to distinguished ability in his profession, unites the knowledge and ardour of a skilful angler. To his pencil the publisher is likewise indebted for the charming portraits of Walton and Cotton, "in their vocation;" and Mr Inskipp's favours have been much enhanced by the cordiality and zeal with which he has executed this important department of the work.

To general readers, as well as to Anglers, the portrait of the venerable Walton, engraved by Mr Humphrys, after the original by Housman, in the possession of the Rev. Dr Hawes, Prebendary of Salisbury, will perhaps prove the most attractive illustration. From that picture all the engraved portraits are said to have been taken; but a single glance will show that in none of them have the real features been preserved. The present engraving is, however, no less faithful to the original than remarkable for its excellence as a work of art; and it may be said that a perfect resemblance of the patriarch of Anglers is now, for the first time, published.

With respect to the literary improvements which are presumed to have been made, and the plan which has been pursued, in this edition of the Complete Angler, it is to be observed that the text is that of the fifth edition, published in 1676, which was the last that was revised by the author; and the variations between it and the four previous editions are carefully indicated at the foot of each page. These variations are often curious, it being well known that Walton very considerably enlarged the second and the fifth edition of his work. As, however, a full account of the different editions of the Complete Angler will be found in the Memoir of Walton, it is unnecessary to say more on the subject.

Many original notes have been added to a selection of