

drew his knife across the rope. The first feelings he experienced were both unpleasant and alarming; his eyes and the top of his head appeared to be forced upwards, but this passed off in a few seconds, and his feelings subsequently became pleasant rather than disagreeable.

So steady and slow was the descent that the parachute appeared to be stationary. Mr. Hampton remembered that a bag of ballast was fastened beneath the car: he stooped over and upset the sand; he also noted by his watch the time he occupied in descending. The earth seemed coming up to him rapidly, the parachute indicated its approach to *terra firma* by a slight oscillation, and he presently struck the ground in the centre of a field.

Mr. Hampton repeated the experiment twice in London, though on both occasions with considerable danger to himself, the first time falling on a tree in Kensington Gardens, the second on a house.

After this experiment there was a lull in the parachute folly until recently, when Madame Poitevin startled the metropolis from its propriety by her perilous escapes both of life and limb.

Although considerable ingenuity was displayed in the plan of expanding the parachute by the sudden discharge of gas from the balloon; still the very fact of a woman being exposed to such danger by her husband will, we trust, hereafter prevent Englishmen from countenancing such an exhibition by their presence.

THE TROUT AND THE CHAR.



PERFECTLY distinct from the salmon, and next in estimation, is the salmon-trout (*Salmo trutta*). It is migratory, like the salmon, but never attains to so large a size, averaging only a few pounds' weight, though one of seventeen pounds was once seen by Mr. Yarrell. It is now a permanent resident in a fresh-water lake of Lismore, one of the Hebrides.

Vast quantities of salmon-trout are sent to the London market from Scotland, and many persons regard them as young salmon.

In some of the rivers of Scotland and England the bull-trout, or whitling (*Salmo eriox*), is very common; it is as large, or nearly so, as the salmon, but its flesh, which when in season is of a pale orange colour, is not held in much estimation. Very few are ever sent to the London market. The local names

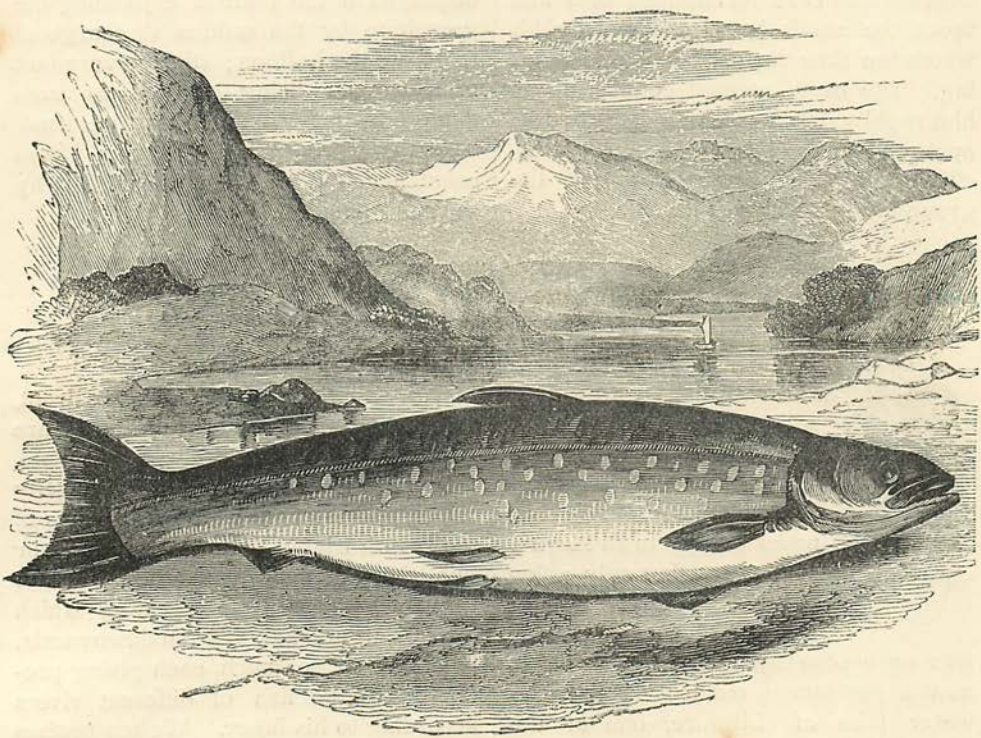
of Norway trout, round-tail, sea trout, Warkworth trout, and coquet trout, are referrible to this fish.

The clear streams, the swift gravelly rivers, and the pure fresh-water lakes of the British islands, all abound more or less with that delicate fish, the common trout (*Salmo fario*), respecting which anglers, from Izaak Walton downwards, have written so much, each giving preference to the fish of different rivers according to his fancy. Walton praises the "swift, shallow, clear, pleasant brooks" of Hampshire, with their "store of trouts." Cotton exalts the Dove, the Wye, the Derwent, and the Lathkin of Derbyshire. But perhaps finer trout are nowhere to be found than those in the Thames, about the weirs of Hampton Court and Chertsey, about Pangbourne, above Reading, and in the deep pools above Oxford. We have seen Thames trout between eleven and twelve pounds' weight, but some of fourteen or fifteen pounds' weight are occasionally taken,

not, however, without such a struggle as to bring all the skill of the angler into full play.

In 1832, a trout, thirty-one inches in length, twenty-one inches in girth, and seventeen pounds' weight, was taken near Great Driffield (Yorkshire), and one in the same year, January 11th, in a

fly, which proves a most destructive bait; and various artificial flies, suited to different streams or rivers, are also used by the angler; the larger trout are generally taken by spinning or trolling with a small bleak or gudgeon. The trout is in perfection in May, June, and July (October being the breeding



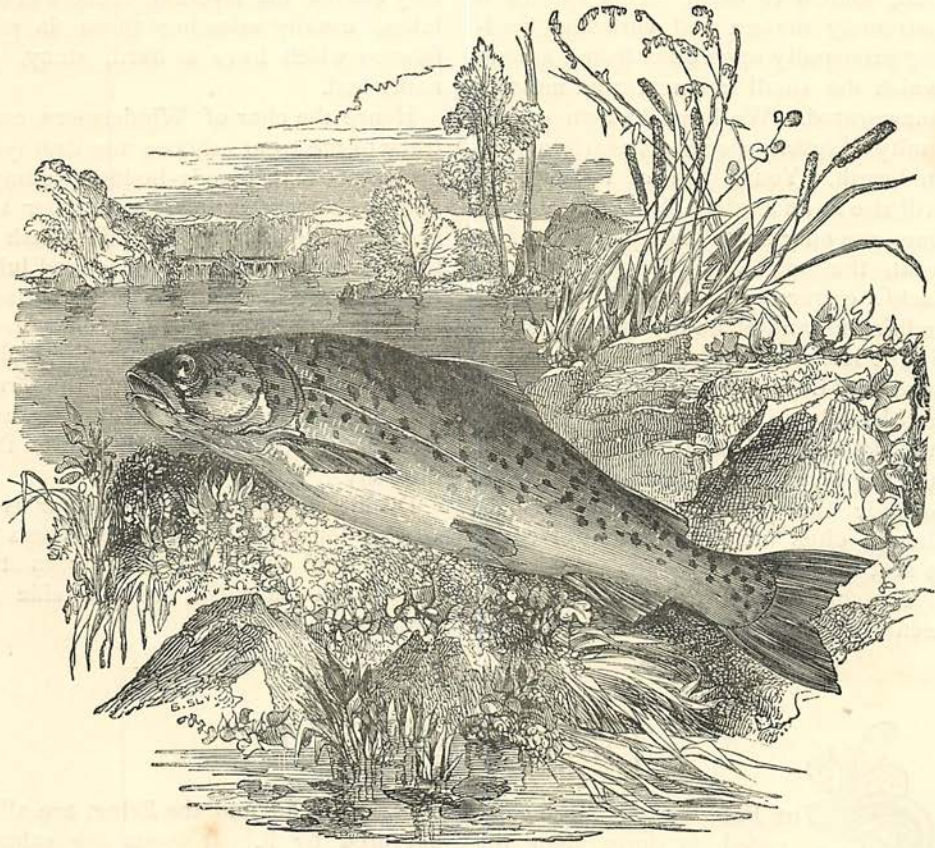
THE TROUT.

small branch of the Avon, at Salisbury, weighing twenty-five pounds. The trout feeds on flies, and the larvæ of insects, on small fishes, etc., and is extremely wary, active, and vigorous, leaping out of the water at its insect prey, and pursuing its finny victims with wonderful velocity. It bites eagerly at the May-

season), and its colours are very beautiful during those months, the numerous reddish-brown spots and bright red spots, on its back and the upper part of the sides, being clear and distinct; the lower parts of the sides being golden yellow, and the under parts silvery white. There is, however, great variety

in the colour of the trouts of different rivers, some being darker, some lighter in their tints, and in the black rivers running over beds of shale, in the moorlands, as the upper part of the Wye, near Buxton, in Derbyshire, we have seen the small trout of an almost inky hue; while in the same river, along the

asserted, in the well for twenty-eight years; and Mr. Yarrell tells of a trout which had lived for fifty-three years in a well in the orchard of Mr. Mossop, near Broughton-in-Furness. The flesh of the trout is very delicious, and when in full season of a pure salmon-pink colour.



THE NORTHERN CHAR.

Bakewell-road, on its way to join the Derwent, where the water is beautifully clear, the trout are of a pale golden colour and beautifully spotted. They are, however, seldom of very large size.

The trout would appear to be a long-lived fish; at Dumbarton Castle a trout died, in 1809, which had been kept, as

In Lough Neagh, a variety called the gillaroo trout exists; we have seen some specimens of it; it differs in having the lining cuticle of the stomach thickened, or rather indurated, and in the number of fin-rays.

Trout from various lakes, with the upper jaw unnaturally abbreviated, are

not uncommon; they exist in some lakes in Wales, and also Loch-dow, Inverness-shire. They are merely instances of hereditary malformation.

In some of the lakes of Scotland, Cumberland, and Ireland, as Loch-awe, Ullswater, Lough Neagh, etc., a large species of trout, called the great grey trout, or the great lake trout, has been long known to exist. This species is extremely savage and voracious, feeding principally upon other fishes, among which the small common trout must be enumerated. We have had an opportunity of seeing specimens nearly a yard in length. Young fish of this species will rise at an angler's fly, but the larger ones can only be taken by trolling in a boat, the bait a small trout, and the tackle extremely strong. The flesh is indifferent, and of an orange yellow.

The lakes of Cumberland, Westmoreland, and Lancashire, some of the Scotch and Irish lakes, and the lake of Geneva, afford a delicately flavoured fish, known as the char, or alpine char (*Salmo umbla*); the potted flesh of which, though often mixed with that of trout, is sent to London.

The char averages from nine to fourteen inches in length; it is very shy,

and does not rise well at the fly, but is, nevertheless, sometimes taken by the trout-fisher; it will bite at the minnow more readily, and is often taken in deep water by drawing the bait sunk 'by means of a lead, two or three feet above the minnow, after a boat. The lake is to the char what the sea is to the salmon; on the approach of the breeding season, they ascend the rivers or feeders of the lakes, usually selecting those in preference which have a hard, stony, or rocky bed.

Hence the char of Windermere, contrary to the trout, choose the Brathy in preference to the sandy-bedded Rothay; and in November and December the shoals make their ascent. The flesh of the char when in season (June and July) is beautifully flaky, and of a fine orange tint. From unknown causes, char, even at the same season of the year, differ considerably in colour, hence the terms of gilt char, red char, silver char, and case char, applied in reference to this diversity.

Distinct from the northern char is a species found in some of the lakes of Wales, and more particularly in the deep Llyn Cawellyn, on the side of Snowdon.

THE POLAR BEAR.



HE Polar Bear is more elongated in form than the other members of the bear tribe; its ears and mouth comparatively small, the neck long and thick, and the sole of the foot very large and almost entirely covered with long hair, which gives it a firm hold of the ice on which it walks. It is an admirable swimmer and diver, while on the ice-fields it can run as quick as the gallop of a horse. Animals of the land and the sea, birds and their

eggs, the dead and the living, are alike devoured by it. It hunts the salmon and the seal, and the powerful walrus. The floating carcasses of whales form a great portion of its food. Captain Sabine saw one swimming, about midway between the north and south shore of Barrow's Straits, which are forty miles apart.

Some writers have asserted that they have seen the white or polar bear upwards of twenty feet long; others contend that it is never more than eight; but the stuffed specimen presented to