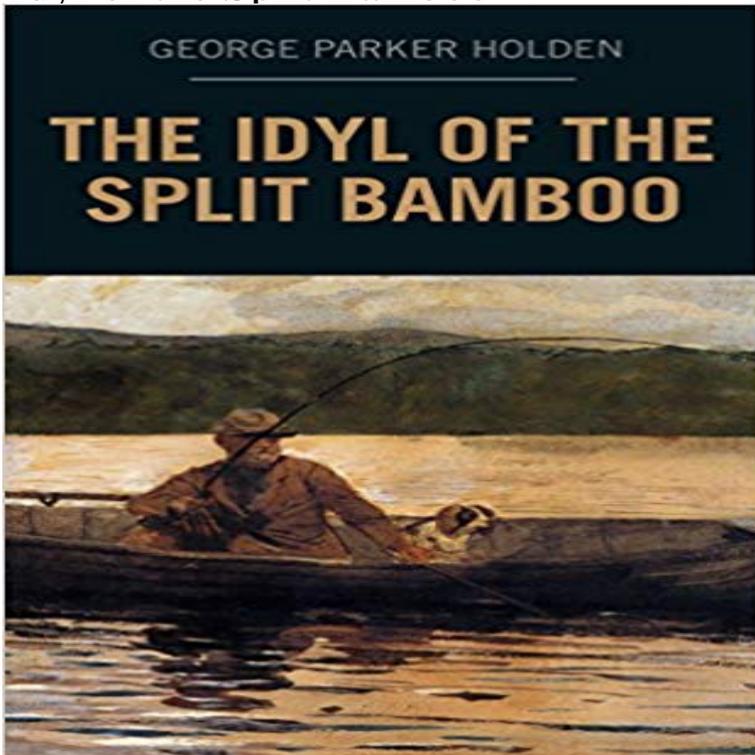


Idyl of the Split Bamboo



We sing the song of the Split-Bamboo. The authors previous book, Streamcraft, deals mainly with actual streamside technicthe selection, care, rigging, and use of the rod; with the choosing of lures, natural and artificial, and their manipulation; and with fly-tying. Its contents, presented in a pocket form, well adapt it for a ready-reference companion on fishing expeditions and even when actually engaged on the water in the quest of the finny game. It comprises much data correlated from many sources, though always authoritative. But nowhere else, to his knowledge, may guidance be found for the construction of the Split-Bamboo Rod equally comprehensive and detailed as in the pages that follow. This has been preceded by a dissertation on The Joys of Angling, and there has been appended some information on Cultivating Silkworm-Gut at Home, and some suggestions on Landing-Nets and Other Equipment, and for The Anglers Camp. The former treatise is largely a working manual for the open season and the stream; this is more a book for Winter evenings and the fireside, and for the workshop. The sportsmans transcendent implements are his rod and his gun. Compared with the glut of gun-dopedata on models, actions, bores, sights, gauges, shells, ballistics, etc.constantly appearing in the outdoor journals and in book form for the consumption of the followers of Nimrod, there is a dearth of readily-available and plain technical information relating to the fishing-rod. While it might be urged that comparatively but few anglers would care to undertake the manufacture of this instrument in its glorified form, it requires little argument to convince anyone that fishermen in general, whether especially addicted either to fresh or salt water, love to tinker with their tackle; and no argument at all to elucidate that a treatise dealing with construction must perforce include

full directions for all rod renovation and repairs. He that can make a rod certainly can fix one. Further, we admit the temerity to trust that this book will appreciably stimulate an increase in the number of those who will be emboldened to essay the whole trick. Building a split-bamboo rod is an operation, and we have explained our technic with the same conscientious care that we would observe in delineating the consecutive details of a surgical operation; for it is a matter of curious comment that amongst all we have read of definite instruction in this art, we never received any help from such sources in overcoming those particular difficulties in handling and working bamboo which at first gave us the most trouble; perversely, as it seemedalbeit including much of interest and of valuethese authorities told us everything except what we most needed to know for perfect success, and at just such critical places they left us stranded. We earnestly hope to succeed here in obviating a like criticism. While some of the subjects discussed in these volumes have been dealt with much more exhaustively in various other and oftentimes sumptuous and expensive treatisesmany of them of foreign authorshipit has been the present writers ambition to condense between the two pairs of covers more information than hitherto has appeared within the same extent of text, of essential, practical interest to the American fresh-water fisherman, and to the average type of enthusiastic American trout-fisherman of today in particular; and at the same time not without some flavor of the delightful literary, aesthetic, and what may be termed the Nature sides of angling, which have inseparably been associated with the sport from the beginning. In this way it is hoped that the novice may easily attain an adequate idea of the comprehensive scope of his artful recreation, while our efforts shall not prove without interest even to those who have a more familiar acquaintance with the tight line.

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