

the bank, he must have been well hooked, or the protracted dawdling with him would have worn the hold out long before. "Put all the pressure on your fish the tackle will bear, and get him ashore as soon as possible," is the rule which will save more lightly hooked ones than any other.

Among the further items of misinformation which Mr. Wells's book contains are the following. He speaks (pp. 29 and 141) of striking on the rise of a fish, and, after a long explanation of just how the salmon takes the fly, says that *not to strike is an absolute condition precedent to success*; that "when a salmon so rises as to disturb the surface of the water, it manifests its presence long before it has touched the fly," and "if the angler then strikes he simply snatches the fly from the astonished fish." The rule about not striking is good on the Restigouche and other rivers where the volume of water is large and the current uniformly strong. In such water a trout will hook himself as well as a salmon. The current at the same time keeps the line stretched to its full length, and sweeps the rising fish away from the fly as soon as he touches it, so that if he touches it he is almost certain to hook himself. A salmon does not come at a fly with any more deliberation than a trout if he means to take it, and generally already has the fly in his mouth when his rise is apparent, though the wave he creates while coming for the fly is sometimes seen when he follows it along the surface. Very frequently, however, the fly is taken without the top of the water being at all disturbed by the fish—a sharp tug giving the angler the first intimation of his success. The objection to striking on such heavy water as the Restigouche is not, as Mr. Wells states, that you "snatch the fly from the astonished fish," but that with a heavy salmon going one way, aided by the force of the current, and the angler striking in the other direction, there is almost a certainty of something breaking with the jerk. In certain rivers, where the water is not strong, the fly has to be worked more against the current; and if the angler does not strike as soon as he sees the rise, he will lose a large proportion of his fish. The Nepisiquit River is an example of this kind of water. Mr. Wells's arbitrary rule as to striking, therefore, is good only in heavy water, and for a reason altogether different from the one he assigns.

Mr. Wells's strictures on spliced rods seem rather strange to those persons who have used them for salmon fishing. The only objection to rods put together with splices instead of ferrules, and it is a serious one, is the trouble of putting them together and taking them apart; but when properly spliced, there is no doubt of their superior durability to a ferruled rod, though there may be no perceptible difference in their action. The weak point in a ferruled rod is of course at the ferrules, and, while many never give way there, every salmon angler of experience can tell of many that have so given way, whereas the place of union in spliced rods is the very strongest part of the whole.

On the subject of casting-lines or leaders, Mr. Wells approves of single gut, and professes to test his lines up to eight pounds. To stand this the gut must be exceptionally good, and even a successful outcome from this test is apt to weaken it so that it gives way in the real time of need. It is like proving a horse's capacity to win a two-mile race in the afternoon by giving him a three-mile trial in the morning. If the gut is round and transparent, a test of four or five pounds is plenty to apply. Mr. Wells attributes salmon rising short to his fly on a certain good fishing day to the fact of his using a casting-line of braided (probably twisted) gut. We think him mistaken about this, as, especially in the lower waters of the Restigouche, the early run of fish

will take a fly attached to the silk line itself about as readily as if tied to a single-gut cast, and treble-gut casts are used through June just as effectively as single ones. When the water gets low and clear, and fish have been some time in the river, and fished over, they become wary and suspicious.

The gaff in its turn receives Mr. Wells's attention, and he calmly demonstrates that the form now held in most esteem by such anglers as Mr. Cholmondeley-Pennell and Major Traherne is not the thing, and that one he bought of an Indian. Flies are treated in the same spirit, though, we must admit, in an interesting manner, well calculated to make the tyro think Mr. Wells must be an angler and deserving of confidence. To the general public the book is likely to be attractive though misleading. Despite its pretensions it does not rise above the very low level of the average of American works on angling.

Friedrich der Grosse. Denkwürdigkeiten seines Lebens nach seinen Schriften, seinem Briefwechsel und den Berichten seiner Zeitgenossen. Leipzig: F. W. Grunow; New York: Westermann. 1886. 2 vols., pp. 594 and 504.

THESE volumes appear as a centennial tribute to the memory of Frederick the Great, who died August 17, 1786. The editor, with whose name we are not made acquainted, comments in a short preface upon the toilsomeness of the King's life, more especially upon his prodigious industry in the writing of letters, edicts, despatches, and the like. Impressive figures are given to show the extent of his productivity in this direction, and the value of the product to historical investigators past and future is duly insisted on.

"But," says our preface, "these documents can also be made useful in another way. It is not every one's affair to gather together from huge, inaccessible, or half-forgotten volumes those deliverances of the King which are of the most importance for the understanding of his mind and heart, and which, by virtue of their genial wit and their charm of expression, form unsurpassably interesting and delightful reading."

The editor has accordingly undertaken to do this gathering himself, and it must be said that he has done it well. Intending his anthology for the general reader rather than for the professional student of history, he has been at no pains to present his material in its strictly original form; he translates the King's French, and modernizes, corrects, or annotates his German as occasion arises. Brief bibliographical notes are given at the bottom of the page, and further notes of a biographical or historical character are added at the end of each volume. The separate documents, numbering in all 559, are presented in chronological order, beginning with a letter from the Crown Prince to his "dear papa" of September 11, 1728, and ending with the last letter in Preuss's great collection, a brief note written by the King just before his death. The volumes contain, so far as we have discovered, nothing that is new, and very little that has not been used for all it is worth in more than one history of Frederick's life.

Obviously the difficulties inherent in an editorial task of this kind were very great, and it is not the fault of the compiler if a great many of his pages fall a good deal short of that superlative excellence which he himself claims for the cream of Frederick's writing. There is very little indeed in the two volumes which we should describe as "unsurpassably interesting and delightful," or which we should select for special praise because of its "genial wit" or its "charm of expression." In his better moods, Frederick wrote with much *verve*, and at such times he

was capable of rhetorical felicities that would have done no discredit to Voltaire. But the writing to which this statement is at all applicable was always done in French, and the royal French appears here uniformly in elegant modern German. As to the King's German, it has when at its best a blunt, businesslike directness which deserves all the praise usually given to that particular quality of style. More than this can hardly be said. Nor, speaking from a purely literary point of view, are we more impressed with the matter than with the manner of the King's writing. His verses, of which our editor gives us a plenty, are no better than they have always been held to be. His literary judgments are conventional, and suffer from lack of real insight. His philosophy, even if it does not quite deserve the unqualified contempt with which it is commonly spoken of by the transcendently illuminated, is, nevertheless, not of a kind to sink by its own weight into the affections of a modern reader.

Notwithstanding all this, however, we are far from saying or thinking that the compilation entirely misses its aim. It is historically highly interesting and valuable. It furnishes us in easily manageable compass a portrait of the King which is unimpeachable so far as it goes, and which at the same time goes far enough for all ordinary purposes. The memoirs will be especially useful for the portion of Frederick's career following the Peace of Hubertsburg in 1763. These years take up nearly the whole of the second volume, whereas in Carlyle's work a single book, the last of twenty-one, is devoted to them. This period, though less dramatic and picturesque than the preceding one of war, is yet of scarcely less moment in the history of the Prussian monarchy, and of even superior importance for the understanding of Frederick II. It was not until then that his character as man and as ruler had time and space to show itself completely. To speak at all of this character with reference to the impression left by the work that has been under consideration, would carry us too far for the present occasion. Suffice it to say, we find neither Macaulay's Frederick nor Carlyle's; neither a despotic monster nor a guileless hero-king. Not the least entertaining portion of the memoirs consists of certain specimens of the marginal notes made by Vater Fritz upon petitions, reports, and the like. Our notice shall close with one of these royal glosses written upon a private pension bill somewhat more than a hundred years ago. A Frenchman prays for the continuance to himself of the pension of 75 thalers which his deceased spouse had received as midwife. *Er kann ja nicht accouchiren*, is the marginal comment.

BOOKS OF THE WEEK.

- Diercks, G. Nordafrika im Lichte der Kulturgeschichte. Munich: Georg D. W. Callwey.
 Eckstein, E. Aphrodite: A Romance of Ancient Hellas. Wm. S. Gottsberger.
 Noble, T. C. The Names of Those Persons who Subscribed towards the Defence of This Country at the Time of the Spanish Armada, 1588, etc. London: Alfred Russell Smith.
 Packard, Prof. A. S. First Lessons in Zoology. Henry Holt & Co. \$1.00.
 Pratt, Dr. H. New Aspects of Life and Religion. London: Williams & Norgate.
 Smart, H. Bad to Beat. Rand, McNally & Co. 25 cents.
 Vines, S. H. Lectures on the Physiology of Plants. Macmillan & Co. \$5.00.
 Vogüé, Eugène-Melchior de. Le Roman russe. Paris: Plon & Norrit; Boston: Schoenhof.
 Ward, W. The Clothes of Religion: A Reply to Popular Positivism. Catholic Publication Society.
 Wendte, C. W. The Carol; A Collection of Religious Songs. The J. Church Co.
 Wentworth, G. A. Elements of Analytic Geometry. Boston: Ginn & Co. \$1.10.
 Westall, W. The Phantom City: A Volcanic Romance. Cassell & Co.
 Wharton, T. Hannibal of New York. Henry Holt & Co. 50 cents.
 Who Took It, and Other Stories. Cassell & Co. 15 cents.
 Wing, A. S. Mortality Experience of the Provident Life and Trust Company of Philadelphia: 1866-85. Philadelphia.
 Winsor, J. Narrative and Critical History of America. Vol. 3.—English Explorations and Settlements in North America. 1497-1689. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co.
 Wood, J. G. First Natural History Reader. Boston: School Supply Co.