LAND OF CONTRASTS

The care of the God of nature, who is said, in the Psalms, to feed the young ravens that call upon him And they be kept alive and fed by  
a dew; or worms that breed in their nests; or some other ways that we mortals know0 not. And this may be believed of the Fordidge   
Trout, which, as it is said of the stork, that he knows his season, so he knows his times, I think almost his day of coming into that river  
out of the sea; where he lives, and, it is like, feeds, nine months of the year, and fasts three in the river of Fordidge. And you are to note,  
that those townsmen are very punctual in observing the time of beginning to fish for them; and boast much, that their river affords a  
Trout that exceeds all others. And just so does Sussex boast of several fish; as, namely, a shelsey Cockle, a Chichester Lobster, an  
Arundel Mullet, and an Amerly Trout. And, now, for some confirmation of the Fordidge Trout: you are to know that this Trout is  
throught to eat nothing in the fresh water; and it may be the better believed, because it is well known, that swallows, and bats, and  
wagtails, which are called half year birds, and not seen to fly in England for six months in the year, but about Michaelmas leave us for  
a hotter climate, yet some of them that have been left behind their fellows, have been found, many thousands at a time, in hollow trees,  
or clay caves, where they have been observed to live, and sleep out the whole winter, without meat. And so Albertus observes, That  
there is one kind of frog that hath her mouth naturally shut up about the end of August, and that she lives so all winter: and though  
it be strange to some, yet it is known to too many among us to be doubted. And so much for these Fordidge Trouts, which never afford  
an angler sport, but either live their time of being in the fresh water, by their meat formerly gotten in the sea, not unlike the swallow or  
frog, or, by the virtue of the fresh water only; or, as the birds of Paradise and the cameleon are said ta live, by the sun and the air. There  
is also in Northumberland a Trout called a Bull trout, of a much greater length and bigness than any in these southern parts; and there  
are, in many rivers that relate to the sea, salmon trouts, as much different from others, both in shape and in their spots, as we see sheep  
in some countries differ one from another in their shape and bigness, and in the fineness of the wool: and, certainly, as some pastures  
breed large sheep; so do some rivers, by reason of the ground over which they run, breed larger Trouts. Now the next thing that I will   
commend to your consideration is, that the Trout is of a more sudden growth than other fish. Concerning which, you are also to take  
notice, that he lives not so long as the Pearch, and divers other fishes do, as Sir Francis Bacon hath observed in his History of Life and  
Death. And next you are to take notice, that he is not like the Crocodile, which if he lives never so long, vet always thrives till his death:  
but tis not so with the Trout; for after he is come to his full growth, he declines in his body, and keeps his bigness, or thrives only in his  
head till his death. And you are to know, that he will, about, especially before, the time of his spawning, get, almost miraculously,  
through weirs and flood gates, against the stream; even through such high and swift places as is almost incredible. Next, that the Trout  
usually spawns about October or November, but in some rivers a little sooner or later; which is the more observable, because most  
other fish spawn in the spring or summer, when the sun hath warmed both the earth and water, and made it if for generation. And you  
are to note, that he continues many months out of season; for it may be observed of the Trout, that he is like the Buck or the Ox, that  
will not, be fat in many months, though he go in the very same pastures that horses do, which will be fat in one month: and so you may  
observe, That most other fishes recover strength, and grow sooner fat and in season than the Trout doth. And next you are to note,   
That till the sun gets to such a height as to warm the earth and the water, the Tront is sick, and lean, and lousy, and unwholesome; for  
you shall, in winter, find him to have a big head, and, then, to be lank and thin and lean; at which time many of them have sticking on  
them Sugs, or Trout lice; which is a kind of a worm, in shape like a clove, or pin with a big head, and sticks close to him, and sucks his  
moisture, those, I think, the Trout breeds himself: and never thrives till he free himself from them, which is when warm weather comes;  
and then, as he grows stronger, he gets from the dead still water into the sharp streams and the gravel, and, there, rubs off these worms  
|or lice; and then, as he grows stronger, so he gets him into swifter and swifter streams, and there lies at the watch for any fly or minnow  
that comes near to him; and he especially loves the May fly, which is bred of the cod worm, or cadis; and these make the Trout bold and  
lusty, and he is usually fatter and better meat at the end of that month than at any time of the years. Now you are to know that it is   
observed, that usually the best Trout are either red or yellow; though some, as the Fordidge Trout, be white and yet good; but that is not  
usual: and it is a note observable, that the female Trout hath usually a less head, and a deeper body than the male Trout, and is usually  
the better meat. And note, that a hog back and little head, to either Trout, salmon or any other fish, is a sign that that fish is in season.  
But yet you are to note, that as you see some willows or palm trees bud and blossom sooner than others do, so some Trout be in rivers,  
sooner in season: and as some hollies, or oaks, are longer before they cast their leaves, so are some Trouts, in rivers, longer before they go  
out of season. And you are to note, that there are several kinds of Trouts: but these several kinds are not considered but by very few  
men; for they go under the general name of Trouts; just as pigeons do, in most places; though it is certain, there are tame wild  
pigeons; and of the tame, there be hermits and runts, and carriers and cropers, and indeed too many to name. Nay, the Royal Society  
have found and published lately, that there be thirty and three kinds of spiders; and yet all, for aught I know, go under that one general  
name of spider. And it is so with many kinds of fish, and of Trouts especially; which differ in their bigness, and shape, and spots, and

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