

to be better than German silver or brass, but alumine, or aluminum, is better than either.

FLY RODS.—Rods made from split bamboo are unquestionably the best in use; but a Robert Welch rod, of ash for the butt and second joint, lancewood for the third, and split bamboo for the fourth or top joint, is the best rod that I have ever owned for general fly-fishing. The split bamboo rod is much lighter, and full as desirable. A fly rod should not be under twelve feet in length, and I had rather have it six inches over, or so made with duplicate top and third joints as to make it either twelve or twelve feet six, though my longest fly rod is only twelve feet and two inches long. I prefer a single action rod to the one of double action or a “kick in the handle,” though the latter may send a fly farther, and deliver it more gracefully, but it lacks the snap of the single action to strike. Fly-rods from split bamboo should weigh from seven to ten ounces when mounted; and if from ash, lancewood, and split bamboo, if strictly for single hand, their weights should range from nine to fifteen ounces; and if the latter weight, they should be about twelve and a half feet long. Neither rod should be too withy, but have snap or elasticity enough in the top to hook a fish without yielding enough to permit the sinner to disgorge. One of the pleasures of fly-fishing is to use a rod which will responsively hook a trout without an effort of the angler. The sport consists in delivering a fly neatly on a straight line—seeing the trout rise gushingly to the surface and accept the lure—and playing a trout gracefully. The charm consists in the manner of taking the trout, and the surroundings of a pleasing landscape—the music of birds, the spring-time of general rejuvenation, and the running harmony of intellectual conversation. There is society in trouting, but it does not prevent the soul from basking in all the life and beauty of sound and gayety around.