

## WINTUN SALMON TAKING\*

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The ingenuity displayed by the Wintoon Indians, of the McCloud, in capturing salmon, shows a knowledge of some of the laws of physics hardly to be expected from so primitive a people. Except when on their spawning-beds, the salmon is so wary a fish that it cannot be approached nearer than thirty or forty feet. If a man's moving shadow falls on the water, all the salmon in the vicinity dart up stream.

These Indians, when the salmon are running, wade into the river and drive down two stakes in the form of St. Andrew's Cross. These are fastened together with willow withes. A couple of poles are now laid, extending from the shore, and resting in the arms of the cross. On these poles, directly over the channel where the fish pass, a wicker structure of willow is erected, in the form of a tall beehive. This is so closely woven with branches and leaves as to shut out the light. It is open at the bottom, which extends to within a few inches of the running water. It has also an opening at the side nearest the shore sufficiently large to admit the head, shoulders, and arms of the Indian. A small hole is also left at the top, through which the shaft of the spear passes. Everything being ready, the Indian lies on the poles, his head and arms in the beehive, and the remainder of his body and his legs resting on the poles outside. No light comes to his eyes except that coming up through the water. His whole contrivance is, in fact, constructed upon the principle of the water-telescope, and the same knowledge is displayed of the laws of light as is made use in constructing a modern aquarium. The Indian can see to the bottom of the stream, and all the fish that pass, while the fish cannot see him. With his spear always poised, and ready for instant use, but few of the unsuspecting salmon escape, that venture to pass beneath his structure.

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