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Working Alexandria Bay for Bass

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“Verdad y vida” (“Truth and Life”), written (it should be noted) in 1908:

The believer who refuses to examine the fundamentals of his belief is a man living in insincerity and in falsehood. The man who is unwilling to consider certain eternal problems is a hypocrite and nothing but a hypocrite. And thus, both in individuals and in people, superficiality is usually found side by side with insincerity. An irreligious nation, that is, a nation where hardly anyone is interested in religious problems—whatever the accepted solutions—is a nation of hypocrites and exhibitionists, where it is important, not to be, but to seem to be.²⁰

20. Translated by Stuart Gross in Miguel de Unamuno, *Perplexities and Problems* (New York: Philosophical Library, 1945), p. 74.

Working Alexandria Bay for Bass



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Whether open water is a better spot or weed-choked margins, where pondgrass floats in mats like hair (as if someone floated under it), I can't say but can guess our fish won't have a pearl in it, or promise us who knows what if one of us hooks it (anyway, with knowing malice it would keep its bargain); and whether those long-snouted pike are meanest (survivors from some primordial flood, they are mean enough), I can't tell you, except that bass will snap the finest test, thicker than head hair, and will strike down from the water's surface any starling that gets careless.

—Stephen M. Gibson