

**DESCRIPTION OF THE
LAKES OF
KILLARNEY AND THE
SURROUNDING SCENERY**

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Description of the Lakes of Killarney and the Surrounding Scenery by W. H. Smith & Son

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W. H. SMITH & SON

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"Though sluggards deem it but a foolish chase,
And marvel men should quit their easy chair,
The toilsome way, and long, long league to trace,
Oh ! there is sweetness in the mountain air,
And life, that blasted Ease can never hope to share."

Osborne Harold, canto 1.



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INTRODUCTION.

I HAVE endeavoured in the following pages to refrain, as much as possible, from saying any thing which might be calculated to raise expectations respecting the scenery of Killarney, which would not be realized on visiting that favoured spot: there is no great harm in saying too little of its merits, whereas much disappointment might be caused by saying too much; particularly when we consider how tastes differ: there are some who naturally have not any taste or feeling for the picturesque;—to such, a visit to Killarney will be likely to end in disappointment.

There are several places of considerable interest in the vicinity of the Lakes, which are well

worthy of a visit. The visitor to these Lakes ought not to leave the south of Ireland without visiting Glengariff and Bantry Bay, Gongaun Barra, Cork Harbour, and the River Lee; and to the lover of close river scenery, an excursion from Youghal to Lismore or Mallow, along the Blackwater, would prove a source of much gratification. In Ireland there exists a variety of scenery which is quite remarkable: in the north we have the Giants' Causeway, which affords a double interest; it has engaged the attention both of the geologist and the lover of coast scenery. In the south are the lakes of Killarney, the Shannon, and the numerous other points of interest which have been already alluded to. In the east is the justly celebrated mountain and river scenery of the county of Wicklow; and in the west there is the wild and romantic scenery of Connemara and Joyce's country, which, in my mind, approaches nearer to the sublime than any thing that is to be met with in Ireland.

The Map which accompanies this little work has been carefully reduced from the Ordnance Survey,

and I am also much indebted to the surveys of Mr. Nimmo and others for much valuable information: I may, therefore, claim for it extreme accuracy.

With respect to the names of places, I have in every case followed the orthography of the Ordnance Survey: as great pains were taken in the compilation of that work, it must, therefore, be considered as a high authority on the subject.

In the work itself I have given numerous quotations, because I considered that the opinions of distinguished individuals who have visited these scenes would be more interesting and instructive than any thing I could have advanced myself on the subject. I have taken some pains to insure accuracy; at the same time errors may have passed unnoticed: should such exist, it is hoped that the reader will kindly make mention of them, in order that they may be rectified in a future edition. With respect to the length of time requisite to visit the Lakes, I should recommend tourists to devote to them, if possible, a week. Those who only remain a day or two, go

away with a very imperfect conception of their numerous beauties,—it is, in fact, making quite a business of a pleasure. The weather here is, unfortunately, very uncertain; which makes it more necessary not to limit oneself to a couple of days. To the artist, Killarney possesses attractions of no ordinary kind; and to the lover of angling the Lakes will be found to possess interest of a different character. In conclusion, I feel that I cannot do better than give the following extract from a very able and liberal article which appeared in the 'Times' of the 18th of June :

“A season comes in every year when Englishmen are converted into a nation of tourists. The high-pressure of parliamentary, professional, and commercial occupation is taken off, and the enjoyment of the holiday-making is in proportion to the irksomeness of the previous confinement. We are a good deal laughed at by foreigners for our roving propensities,—they are never at the pains to consider the true explanation of the fact. It is because we work so hard, that, when we find an opportunity, we travel so