

**THE REMINISCENCES OF  
AN IRISH LAND  
AGENT: BEING  
THOSE OF S. M. HUSSEY**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649690183

The Reminiscences of an Irish Land Agent: Being Those of S. M. Hussey by Home Gordon & S. M. Hussey

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**HOME GORDON & S. M. HUSSEY**

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Page 11. *[Faint, illegible text]*

*J. M. Chapman*

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OF AN  
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14001

BEING THOSE OF

S. M. HUSSEY

*Compiled by*

HOME GORDON



WITH TWO PORTRAITS

LONDON

DUCKWORTH AND COMPANY

3 HENRIETTA STREET, W.C.

1904

A.S.

22

## P R E F A C E

PROBABLY the first criticism on this book will be that it is colloquial.

The reason for this lies in the fact that though Mr. Hussey has for two generations been one of the most noted raconteurs in Ireland, he has never been addicted to writing, and for that reason has always declined to arrange his memoirs, though several times approached by publishers and strongly urged to do so by his friends, notably Mr. Froude and Mr. John Bright. If his reminiscences are to be at all characteristic they must be conversational, and it is as a talker that he himself at length consents to appear in print.

In this volume he endeavours to supply some view of his own country as it has impressed itself on 'the most abused man in Ireland,' as Lord James of Hereford characterised Mr. Hussey. How little practical effect several attacks on his life and scores of threatening letters have had on him is shown by the fact that he survives at the age of eighty to express the wish that his recollections may open the eyes of many as well as prove diverting.

Possessing a retentive memory, he has been further

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able to assist me with seven large volumes of newspaper cuttings which he had collected since 1853, while the publishers kindly permit the use of two articles he contributed to *Murray's Magazine* in May and July 1887. To me the preparation of this book has been a delightful task, materially helped by Mr. Hussey's family as well as by a few others on either side of the Channel.

HOME GORDON.

13 OVIINGTON SQUARE, S.W.



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# REMINISCENCES OF AN IRISH LAND AGENT

## CHAPTER I

### ANCESTRY

'My father and mother were both Kerry men,' as the saying goes in my native land, and better never stepped.

It was my misfortune, but not my fault, that I was born at Bath and not in Kerry.

However, my earliest recollection is of Dingle, for I was only three months old when I was taken back to Ireland, and up to that time I did not study the English question very deeply, especially as I had an Irish nurse.

There is a lot of Hussey history before I was born, and some is worth preserving here.

It is a thousand pities that so many details of family history have been lost, and to my mind it is incumbent on one member of every reasonably old family in this generation to collect and set down what should be remembered about their ancestors for the unborn to come.

My contribution does not profess to be very exhaustive, but it will serve for want of a better.

When a man claims to be descended from Irish kings, it generally means that his forbears were bigger scoundrels than he is, for they were cattle-lifters and marauders, whilst his