

A MONTH IN NORWAY

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A Month in Norway by John George Hollway

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JOHN GEORGE HOLLWAY

**A MONTH
IN NORWAY**

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MONTH IN NORWAY.

BY JOHN GEORGE HOLLWAY.

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P R E F A C E.

THE present little sketch can perhaps hardly aspire to the dignity of a work on Norway. Works written by men well fitted for the task, both by literary capacity and personal experience of the country, already exist, in which Norway and its people, their laws, customs, and trade, are fully and admirably described. As sporting ground too it has not been without able illustrators.

This work has an humbler aim. A description of a short summer tour, its object is to point out fresh ground to those who are fortunate enough to be able to redeem from the toilsome year a few summer weeks in which to replenish their minds with nature. It is addressed to the fagged and weary literary man, politician, professional man, teacher, "et id genus omne;" for whom, after working hard and close at head-work the major part of the year, and sick of "breathing the breaths and thinking the thoughts of other men in close and crowded cities," it is good to rush far away for their short holiday to fresh fields

and pastures new, where they can refresh both mind and body and nerve themselves for the next year's inevitable struggle. It is written to remind these what an interesting people and country a few weeks will suffice to allow them to make a very tolerable acquaintance with. I do not mean to say that Norway is never visited in this way now, but I think it has hitherto entered into the heads of comparatively few that it was worth while to go to Norway unless for three or four months' salmon fishing and shooting, or perhaps yachting. But there must be hundreds of men who, although they have no yachts, and neither time nor skill to fish the rivers, or stalk wild reindeer on the Fjelds, would nevertheless find much in a four weeks' tour in Norway deeply interesting to them. They would find a population in most of the country districts as yet fresh and unspoiled, with striking customs and primitive manners; a country with scenery grand and wild almost beyond compare; with a climate too, as far as my experience goes, most delicious and invigorating, the mode of travelling being no small part of the enjoyment from its novelty and independence. It is with the intent thus of inducing many to follow the example of a few, and take a peep at Norway purely for the sake of enjoying its scenery and becoming acquainted with its people,

without necessarily including any idea of sport in such a visit, that I have dotted down the few following experiences of my own during just such a trip taken last summer. I do not pretend to write a guide book, or indeed to give information about any matters except those which came under my own immediate observation. Deductions and inferences drawn from what one hears and sees, in a very short visit to a foreign country, are always likely to contain a good deal of error, and I do not claim any larger proportion of trustworthiness than usual for the few speculations and general reflections I have occasionally indulged in; but I have been careful to set down nothing for which I thought I had not good and sufficient authority.

LONDON, 1853.

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