

IN PORTUGAL

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In Portugal by Aubrey F. G. Bell

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AUBREY F. G. BELL

IN PORTUGAL

IN PORTUGAL

BY THE SAME AUTHOR

THE MAGIC OF SPAIN

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IN PORTUGAL

BY AUBREY F. G. BELL

Oh quem fôra a Portugal,
Terra que Deus bendizia !

Romance

(O to go to Portugal, land heaven-blest)

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NEW YORK: JOHN LANE COMPANY. MCMXII.

PREFACE

THE guide-books give full details of the marvellous convents, gorgeous palaces and solemn temples of Portugal, and no attempt is here made to write complete descriptions of them, the very names of some of them being omitted. But the guide-books too often treat Portugal as a continuation, almost as a province of Spain. It is hoped that this little book may give some idea of the individual character of the country, of the quaintnesses of its cities, and of peasant life in its remoter districts.

While the utterly opposed characters of the two peoples must probably render the divorce between Spain and Portugal eternal and reduce hopes of union to the idle dreams of politicians, Portugal in itself contains an infinite variety—the *charneças* and cornlands of Alemtejo; the hills and moors, pinewoods, corkwoods and olives of Extremadura; the red soil and faint blue mountains of Algarve, with its figs and carobs and palms, and little sandy fishing-bays;

the clear streams and high massive ranges and chimneyless granite villages of Beira Baixa and Beira Alta; the vines and sand-dunes and rice-growing *alagadiços* of Douro; the wooded hills, mountain valleys, flowery meadows and transparent streams and rivers of rainy Minho, with its white and grey scattered houses, its crosses and shrines and chapels, its maize-fields and orchards and tree- or granite-propped vines; and, finally, remote inaccessible Traz-os-Montes, bounded on two sides by Spain, on the South by the Douro, to which its rivers of Spanish origin, Tamega, Tua, Sabor, flow through its range on range of bare mountains, with precipitous ravines and yellow-brown clustered villages among olives, chestnuts and rye. Each of the eight provinces (more especially those of the *alemtejanos*, *minhotos* and *beirões*) preserves many peculiarities of language, customs and dress; and each, in return for hardships endured, will give to the traveller many a day of delight and interest.

MIRANDELLA (TRAZ-OS-MONTES),
July, 1911.

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