

**LETTERS FROM THE
KINGDOM OF KERRY:
IN THE YEAR 1845**

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Letters from the Kingdom of Kerry: In the Year 1845 by Mary Jane Leadbeater Fisher

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MARY JANE LEADBEATER FISHER

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KINGDOM OF KERRY:
IN THE YEAR 1845**

LETTERS

FROM

THE KINGDOM OF KERRY

IN

THE YEAR 1845.

Fisher / Mrs. Lydia Jane Fisher

Dear Erin ! how sweetly thy green bosom rises,
An emerald set in the ring of the sea ;
Each blade of thy meadows my faithful heart prizes,
Thou queen of the west ! the world's east-to-morrow. — O'Connell.

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1847.

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From the
Estate of Mrs. Asa Gray,
through the
Gray Herbarium

Webb and Chapman, Printers, Dublin.

Addressed and Dedicated

to

THE BEST SISTER, THE BEST AUNT, AND THE BEST WIFE

IN

THE WHOLE WORLD.

P R E F A C E.

THE reader must not expect to find, in the following pages, any reference to the present distressed state of those parts of Ireland which they attempt to describe. When I concluded these letters, it was far from entering into my mind that such aggravation of their poverty and misery impended over the primitive people I had so recently visited. When we turned from their mountain land, their wants were many and their privations great; we deemed them sunk in the lowest depth of poverty. Alas! lower deeps still were to be fathomed by them. The potato-crop was blighted; their staff of life was destroyed, and we now behold the awful result.

My heart sinks within me as I picture their present situation, encompassed by their desolate mountains, buried in their barren wilds. What have they now to barter? what can they offer for the bare means of subsistence? and even if they were able to purchase, where can they procure the food? Famine, Disease, and Death stalk through the country, and how can the means of life be carried in sufficient quantities into those rugged and dreary wastes? Meanwhile, thousands upon thousands are being swept off the face of the earth. May God in his infinite mercy relieve the sorrows of my stricken country!

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