

**THE CHANNEL ISLANDS PILOT,
OR, SAILING DIRECTIONS FOR
GUERNSEY, SERK, ALDERNEY,
AND JERSEY**

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The Channel Islands Pilot, or, Sailing Directions for Guernsey, Serk, Alderney, and Jersey by
John Richards

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JOHN RICHARDS

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ADVERTISEMENT.

The Channel Islands Pilot contains a description of, and Sailing Directions for the islands of Guernsey, Serk, Alderney, and Jersey; with the outlying islets and adjacent channels. The work has been prepared by Staff-Commander John Richards, R.N., during the Admiralty Survey of these islands in the years 1859-70, and includes the latest information.

G. H. R.

Hydrographic Office, Admiralty, London,
March, 1870.

GLOSSARY OF WORDS PECULIAR TO GUERNSEY.

- Amfroques.....(Amphes roques), called by pilots and fishermen the Humpha.
- Amont.....Up the stream; Vent d'Amont, northerly, or easterly wind.
- AvalDown the stream; Vent d'Aval, southerly, or westerly wind.
- BecA beak ; a narrow point of precipitous land jutting out into the sea, as Bec du Nez at Serk.
- Becquet..A diminutive of Bec.
- Boue.....A sunken rock causing an overfall or breaker.
- Col.....A neck ; a ridge connecting a rock with the mainland or one rock with another, as Col du Homptol.
- Corbière.....Headlands bearing this name occur in the Channel islands and on the French coast.
- Demies.....Rocks that uncover at half tide.
- Fourquie.....Meaning forked (a rock with two heads), as Fourquie du Becquet.
- Grève.....A beach, as Belle Grève.
- Grune.....A name frequently applied to rocks which are rather flat on top, as Les Grunes off Jerbourg point, and La Grune off north point of Serk.
- Houmet, or Hommet. This word is used to describe low islets lying near the shore, and eminences on the land rising in the midst of marshes, as Houmet Paradis, Houmet fort, Houmet mill.
- Kaines.....Denotes long reefs of rocks linked as it were together, as Les Boues des Kaines, Les Kaines d'Amont.
- L'Etac.....A name applied to high isolated rocks, as L'Etac de Serk.
- MoulièreA rock where muscles are found.
- Moye, or Moie A steep rocky promontory ; occasionally a detached islet, as Pointe La Moye on south coast of Guernsey, and Grande and Petite Moie at Serk.
- Pièce.....A name applied to rocks too small or insignificant to have acquired a distinguishing name.
- Plat.....(in the feminine platte) signifies flat. Thus Platte roque means flat rock.
- Pleinmont.....in Jersey Plémont—a bluff headland.
- Tas de Pois.....from a supposed resemblance of rocks so named to a stack of peas.

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THE CHANNEL ISLANDS PILOT.

CHAPTER I.

THE ISLANDS OF GUERNSEY, HERM, AND SERK, WITH THE RUSSEL CHANNELS.

Variation 21° West in 1870.

GENERAL REMARKS.—Though a section of Guernsey, if taken from south to north, would decline nearly in the form of a wedge, the highest part of which would be the southern shore, while a section of Jersey would decline in a contrary direction, or from north to south, yet these distinguishing features do not so immediately manifest themselves on first sighting these islands from the westward. Seen from a westerly direction, at any considerable distance, both Guernsey and Jersey appear level; the low land of Braye du Valle in the former island, and that of St. Clement in the latter, being yet in the horizon. The outline of Guernsey, however, is somewhat more irregular than that of Jersey; the western shore of the former is also clothed with more verdure than that of the latter, and appears of a deeper shade. St. Ouen bay, in Jersey, has suffered considerably from the encroachments of the sea-sand; so much so, that the whole of the western land between La Corbière point and L'Etac point appears identified with it.*

ASPECT OF GUERNSEY.—The most remarkable objects which first present themselves when running for the south-west end of Guernsey, are the light-tower on the Hanois rocks, the white castellated tower of Fort Grey (in the centre of the sandy bay of Rocquaine), Pleinmont guard-house, Torteval church spire, and the Tower of L'Erée, on a hummock at the northern part of the above bay, near Lihou island. Pleinmont guard-

* See Admiralty Charts:—Islands of Guernsey, Herm, and Serk, in 3 sheets, No. 61, scale, $m = 4$ inches; and France, North coast, Sheet 10, No. 2,669, scale, $m = 0.5$ of an inch.

house is on the heights to the southward of the bay, near the apex of the bluff. Torteval church, with its round tower surmounted by a high steeple, stands at a little distance inland; being as conspicuous in this quarter of the island as C atel and Vale churches are in the northern part.

As the coast is approached, the declivity of the northern land begins gradually to rise from the horizon; presenting a surface diversified with houses, churches, windmills, and groups of trees; and which are still more conspicuous if seen from a north-westerly position.

All the western shore of Guernsey is studded with precipitous rocks, many of which are wholly detached from the land. On the high land above St. Martin point, at the south-east end of the island, a stone column, 96 feet high, having its apex 424 feet above the level of low water, ordinary springs, has been erected, in honour of Lieut.-General Sir John Doyle. Another remarkable, as well as beautiful object, is the Victoria tower (100 feet high, and 322 feet above low water), erected on the heights above the town of St. Peter Port; to commemorate the visit of Her Majesty the Queen in 1846. It is a square tower, slightly tapering from its base, surmounted by a battlemented gallery, with square turrets at its angles.

ASPECT of JERSEY.—The approach to Jersey from the westward is marked nearly in a similar manner to that of Guernsey. The first objects seen are the churches of St. Peter and St. Ouen; St. Ouen windmill, with an extensive range of buildings on the sandy heights, called St. Ouen barracks; and now and then the turret of St. Mary church together with that of Princes tower or Hougue Bie, will appear from among the trees in the interior of the island. St. Peter and St. Ouen churches stand high: the steeple of the former is lofty, that of the latter merely a turret. On a nearer view the six martello towers on the sandy beach in St. Ouen bay will present themselves, and also the Corbi ere rock, with the declining land to the south-eastward; the surface of which latter is covered with wood, and its base with sand and rock.

Such are the features which characterize Guernsey and Jersey, nor can they be mistaken even by a stranger. In clear weather these islands may be seen at the distance of 25 miles.

REFRACTION.—To show the strange effects of refraction, it may be noticed, that from a station near Verclut guard-house in Jersey, the top of the south-eastern battlement of Seymour tower exactly coincides with the line of the visible horizon at low water great spring tides; sometimes however, when viewed from the same position, it has appeared considerably below that line, and in several instances above it. In this case the line of sight passes partially over the surface of the rocky ledge called the Violet bank, and over the sandy strand in its vicinity, as well as over the