

**ROUND ABOUT LONDON.
HISTORICAL, ARCHAEOLOGICAL,
ARCHITECTURAL, AND PICTURESQUE
NOTES SUITABLE FOR THE TOURIST,
WITHIN A CIRCLE OF TWELVE MILES**

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Round About London. Historical, Archaeological, Architectural, and Picturesque Notes Suitable for the Tourist, within a Circle of Twelve Miles by W. J. Loftie

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W. J. LOFTIE

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HISTORICAL, ARCHÆOLOGICAL,
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SUITABLE FOR THE TOURIST,
WITHIN A CIRCLE OF TWELVE MILES.

TO WHICH ARE ADDED
SPECIMENS OF SHORT WALKING EXCURSIONS AND VISITS TO
HATFIELD, KNOLE, ST. ALBANS, AND WINDSOR.

BY
A FELLOW OF THE SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES.

With a Map and Copious Index.

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CONTENTS.



	PAGE.
Abbreviations	iv
General Sketch	1
Dictionary of Places within Twelve Miles	13
Specimens of Walking Excursions	117
Excursions beyond Twelve Miles	120
Index	137

ABBREVIATIONS.

The letters following the name of a place denote the postal district, as: Acton, Middlesex, W.

A.S.—Anglo-Saxon.

Abp.—Archbishop.

Bp.—Bishop.

cir.—circa; *i. e.* about.

Dec.—Decorated.

d.—died.

D.S.—Domesday Survey.

E.E.—Early English architecture.

Eocl.—Ecclesiastical.

Eliz.—Elizabeth.

ft.—feet.

Mont.—Monument.

Perp.—Perpendicular.

Pop.—Population.

Stn.—Railway Station.

temp.—tempore; *i. e.* in the time of.

GENERAL SKETCH.

SCOPE OF THIS BOOK.—The country round London is in many respects the most interesting part of England. It is not wanting either in scenery or historical associations. The student of archæology, as well as the lover of the picturesque, may be amply satisfied in an excursion which will not take him more than 12m. from London. In the following pages an attempt has been made (1) to sketch a series of excursions of this kind, few longer than may be compassed in a Saturday half-holiday; and (2) to give some particulars of every place of interest, arranged alphabetically, within a circuit of 12m., or thereabouts, from the Post Office, exclusive of those which are within a circle of 4m. round Charing Cross.

AUTHORITIES.—There have been many exhaustive works more or less of a similar kind; but as here nothing has been given but the most succinct notice, it may be worth while to direct the reader who wishes to know more of the places visited to the best topographical books. Mention is only made of those which are of serious importance, mere essays being omitted. Mr. Thorne's 'Handbook to the Environs of London' is the best—that is, the most useful—book of the kind. It gives in alphabetical order particulars of every place within 20m., and of a few beyond that distance. As it appeared after the present Guide was far advanced towards completion, it has not afforded us much help, but we are indebted to it for a few notes, acknowledged in their places. The older portion of Mr. Thorne's historical notes, like our own, has been apparently taken from Lysons, whose 'Environs,' commenced in the last century, fill four large quarto volumes, and form the most valuable and most trustworthy work on the subject. The volumes are as follows:—Vol. i. pt. 1, Towns, Villages, and Hamlets

in Surrey which are within 12m. of London; vol. i. pt. 2, those in Kent, Essex, and Herts; vol. ii. 2 pts., those in the county of Middlesex. Subsequently, Lysons published the 'Parishes in Middlesex,' which are not described in the 'Environs.' Upon these five volumes every topographical work relating to the neighbourhood of London must be founded. 'Hugbson's Walks' contains very little which comes within our limits. 'Knight's London' is also chiefly confined to the town. There are county histories of Kent (Hasted, of which the Kent Archæological Society have a new edition in preparation), of Surrey (Manning and Bray), of Herts (Chauncy and Clutterbuck), and of Essex (Morant, a writer of the 17th century, and Wright, the latter very poor). There is no such history of Middlesex, but Lysons' volumes supply the want. In addition to these there are the publications of the *Kent Archæol. Soc.*, of which ten vols. have been issued to subscribers, all very valuable: of the *Surrey Archæol. Soc.*, of which 30 vols. have been issued: of the *Essex Archæol. Soc.*, which has still to earn the London topographer's thanks. The publications of the *London and Middlesex Soc.* have been for the most part extremely well illustrated, and the reader will be influenced in his judgment of the separate articles by the writer's name, but a few very valuable papers have appeared in the 'Journal.' There are, naturally, many notices of the environs of London in the Transactions of the *Soc. of Antiquaries*, the *Royal Archæol. Inst.*, and the *British Archæol. Assoc.* Nor should anyone who desires to study the subject thoroughly omit a careful examination of the facsimile Domesday Book, with the accompanying vols. of notes and translation.

MIDDLESEX.

HISTORY.—The great events which have taken place in the neighbourhood of London belong to the history of our country at large, and it will be only necessary here to make a few general observations as to the territorial divisions and those circumstances by which they have been modified. Middlesex, the smallest county in England with the exception of Rutland, supports the largest population, owing to its containing the greater part of

the suburbs of London, a city which, it must be clearly understood, is no part of the county, although entirely surrounded by it. Strictly speaking, although London has sometimes been reckoned the ancient capital of Essex, it is not the county town of Middlesex, this distinction belonging to *Brentford* (*see*). The name may either be derived from the situation of the county between Essex, Wessex, and Sussex, or from the existence of a race of "Middle Saxons." And our earliest authorities make it a kind of debatable country, covered with a vast forest, and nourishing a very scanty population. It was traversed by some of the great roads leading to London, but it is on record that in several cases these roads required special arrangements for their protection, owing to the facilities for brigandage offered by the great forest of Middlesex. Of this forest there are still remains, some of which are noticed in the following pages, and others, as Hyde Park, the Regent's Park, and St. John's Wood, are so near our eyes as to be easily overlooked. In the Domesday Survey we have the first succinct description of Middlesex as a county. We find that it contained six Hundreds—namely, Edmonton, Gore, Elthorn, Hounslow, Spelthorn, and Ossulston; and that these Hundreds were divided into upwards of 80 manors, of each of which an account is given. The Hundred of Ossulston contained a greater part of the land immediately adjoining the city, and was therefore the part most rapidly absorbed. It has disappeared from the modern lists, which stands thus—Edmonton, Elthorn, Gore, Iscworth, Kensington, and Spelthorpe or Spelthorn.

It may be worth while to remark here, with regard to so complicated a subject as manorial history, that there is reason to believe that at first the manor and the parish were conterminous, that the "home park" became gradually separated from the rest of the manor, and that a large number of new manors were created, especially as the population increased, until this subdivision was prohibited by statute in 1290. In the neighbourhood of London this subdivision went on with such rapidity as in many cases to obliterate the original manor altogether, and it has often been remarked that hardly any families remain in Middlesex which have been seated within the county for a hundred years. There is not a single landowner whose ancestor held the same land in the reign