

**LOUGH ERNE, ENNISKILLEN, BELLEEK,
BALLYSHANNON, AND BUNDORAN:
WITH ROUTES FROM DUBLIN TO
ENNISKILLEN AND BUNDORAN, BY
RAIL OR BUT STEAMBOAT**

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Lough Erne, Enniskillen, Belleek, Ballyshannon, and Bundoran: With Routes from Dublin to Enniskillen and Bundoran, by Rail or but Steamboat by W. F. Wakeman

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Portora Castle (See p. 38).

By ^{W. F. Wakeman} **W. F. WAKEMAN,**

Professor of Drawing, Royal School, Portora, and at the District National Model School, Enniskillen; Late of the Topographical Department, Ordnance Survey of Ireland; and Author of "Archæologia Hibernica," "Three Days on the Shannon," "The Dublin Guide," &c. &c.

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JOHN MULLANY, 1 PARLIAMENT-STREET.
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1876.

R.N.B.

TO
L A D Y W I L D E—
TO "SPERANZA"

OF THE PAST, OF THE PRESENT,

AND,

LET US HOPE, OF A LONG, LONG FUTURE TO IRELAND,

THIS LITTLE VOLUME IS GRATEFULLY INSCRIBED

BY

THE AUTHOR.

Sloman 25 July 1907. 2/3



INTRODUCTION.

THAT Lough Erne, with its fifty-two miles of unbroken navigable course, its varied and beautiful scenery, its three-hundred-and-odd islands, its attractions for the artist, antiquary, geologist, botanist, angler, fowler, yachtsman, or ordinary tourist, should have remained almost to this day but rarely visited by strangers, is a circumstance which can only be accounted for by the remoteness of its situation from any very considerable town, and in some degree by the want upon its waters of steamboat accommodation. Now, however, all this glorious country may be said to have been brought within twelve hours of the crowded millions in the workshop towns of Lancashire and Yorkshire. Well appointed and commodious steamboats glide through its breadth of waters as through a sea, and a large portion of its course owing chiefly to the enterprise of a single individual, has once again become a highway for travellers from the eastern to the north-western counties of Ireland. The words of the poet Spenser, written nearly three hundred years ago, may be applied to the districts under notice, even at the present day: "And sure it is yet a most beautiful and sweet country as any under heaven, being stored throughout with many goodly rivers, replenished with all sorts of fish, abundantly sprinkled with many sweet islands and goodly lakes, like little inland seas, that will carry even ships upon their waters; adorned with goodly woods even fit for building houses and ships, so commodiously, as that if some princes in the world had them they would soon hope to be lord of all the seas, and ere long of all the world; also full of very good ports and havens opening upon England, inviting us to come unto them to see what excellent commodities that country can afford; besides the soyle it selfe most fertile, fit to yield all kind of fruit that shall be committed thereunto; and lastly, the

heavens most milde and temperate, though somewhat more moist than the parts towards the east." All that the author of the "Faery Queen," in the above passage, describes as existing in Ireland in his time we still possess; but we can promise our visitors many enjoyments such as even the imagination of the poet never dreamt of, and which are the natural result of the advancement made by the world in more of the arts than one during the last couple of centuries. We hope to be able to show that there is no taste for the picturesque or beautiful which may not be amply gratified upon the shores or in the neighbourhood of the historic Erne. We shall endeavour not only to point out localities and scenes of interest, but also to inform our readers of the best way of arriving at such places, whether by boat, on foot, or by cars, &c. The antiquary, who would trace the history of his race through monuments which have descended to our time from the earliest period of society in Erin, shall have his attention drawn in numerous instances to the

" Cairn's gray pyramid,
Where bones of mighty chiefs lie hid,"

to the wondrous cromlech, and so-called druidical circle, to the giant's grave, pillar-stone, or Thuatha-de-Danaan rath, to the finest of all the round towers of Ireland, as well as to the cell of the early Christian missionary, or the storied cross of somewhat later times. The geologist shall be introduced to caves the mystery and grandeur of which might have suggested the lines of our national poet:

" So fathomless, so full of gloom,
No eye could pierce the void between;
It seemed a place where ghouls might come
With their foul banquets from the tomb,
And in its caverns feed unseen.
Like distant thunder from below,
The sound of many torrents came;
Too deep for eye or ear to know,
If 't were the sea's imprisoned flow,
Or floods of everlasting flame."

These caverns, taken altogether, are perhaps the most wonderful in the west of Europe, and in some instances have not hitherto been entirely explored, so great is their extent and so intricate their ramifications. The artist will revel in the wild glens above Swanlinbar, Florence Court, and Carrick Lake, near Church Hill. The fisherman along the golden shores of many an emerald islet, or by the "salmonful" cataract of Ballyshannon, below which, with a mighty roar and bound, old Saimmer—the original name of the Erne river—

"Cleaves the waveworn precipice,"

and becomes lost in the bosom of the Atlantic. Amongst the stupendous inland cliffs of Knockmore, Belmore, and Lordly Cullen the botanist may in an hour gather with little trouble, and without having to ask the permission of anyone, as many beautiful and rare ferns and other plants as would stock an ample herbarium. The yachtsman has at his command, at a moderate hire, the graceful cutter, boats of all sizes for sailing or rowing—or, if he will, or the necessities of his party command greater accommodation, the never-tiring sure steamboat.

There are other considerations which, for the benefit of some of our stranger visitors, it may not be out of place here to touch on. We refer principally to the hotel accommodation which is presented along our various routes; and we beg leave to assure the most fastidious tourist that at present, and for a considerable time past, travellers in Ireland, north, south, east, and west, have formed but one opinion, and that an excellent one, of the capabilities of our hotels, of the scale of charges, and of the attention and civility alike of the proprietors and of their assistants. We may also add, for the benefit of many who have drawn their only opinion of Ireland from stage caricatures, from books written purposely to mislead, or from the mendacious speeches of selfish agitators (we allude to no particular party), that there is no country in Europe where the stranger, even the "unprotected female," may so safely travel as in Ireland. The two principal routes between Dublin and Enniskillen will be found

described in another portion of this Guide. As the thriving town of Enniskillen is built upon an island, situate in the very centre of the lake district, we shall assume that celebrated "pass between Ulster and Connaught" as the head-quarters from which the majority of tourists will kindly accompany us on our various excursions.

We conclude our little introduction with a word touching the composition of the "Guide." The sketches were made upon the spot by the author, and by him transferred to the wood. The engraver is Mr. Oldham of Rathgar, Dublin—an artist whose fame we have reason to know is not confined to this his native country. As with the illustrations, so with the letterpress descriptions, all of which were penned while yet we possessed the advantage of having the scene in its reality before us. It has been said that it is desirable for a writer to be possessed in some degree of a knowledge of the subject upon which he treats. If this be true, we may cheerfully claim an advantage over the ordinary class of book-makers upon Irish themes (such particularly as date from the "Sister Isle," and are, therefore, for British [*Museum*] reasons, to be considered generally as of superior authority on Irish subjects), inasmuch as for four years it has been our lot to reside amongst scenes and districts of the Erne which are now, in very many instances, for the first time brought before the notice of the public.