

THE SPIRIT OF TRAVEL

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649478590

The Spirit of Travel by Charles Packe

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

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CHARLES PACKE

**THE SPIRIT
OF TRAVEL**

THE SPIRIT OF TRAVEL.

THE
SPIRIT OF TRAVEL,

BY

CHARLES PACKE,

OF THE INNER TEMPLE.



Hinc ego mecum
Compressis agito labris: ubi quid datur oti
Hinc chartis: hoc est medicoribus illis
EX vitiss unum.
HORACE, *Satires*, Book I. Sat. 4, line 138.

LONDON:
CHAPMAN AND HALL,
193, PICCADILLY.
1857.

203. d. 141.

PREFACE.

La dernière chose qu'on trouve, en faisant un ouvrage, est de savoir celle qu'il faut mettre la première.—PASCAL.

I SCARCELY know what excuse to offer for giving the following pages to the public. When I first commenced stringing together these notes of my last summer excursion, it was merely for my own gratification; but as the work progressed, I found myself unwilling that the result should be confined only to myself, and am induced to hope that to my personal friends, at all events, I may impart some portion of the pleasure which I have felt in retracing my steps upon the map. At any rate, I can say with old Montaigne:—

“ Even though no one read me, I have not lost my time, in having passed so many of my idle hours in thoughts so profitable and so agreeable.”

I cannot hope to allure any one by the novelty of the subject. The narratives of summer tours in all parts of the world, that annually appear in print, at least keep pace with the increasing taste for travel; and if I can take no credit for having gone off the beaten track, this must not be altogether laid to my disadvantage. It is a great weakness on the part of travellers always to extol chiefly what they think fewest people have seen or can see.

“The Spirit of Travel” is, I fear, somewhat too pretentious a title for so insignificant a work; but my aim has not been to make a book merely descriptive of the country through which I travelled, but to convey some general idea of the impressions and fancies which this tour left upon my mind. Perhaps, also, some of the

hints on "The Art of Travel," in countries more civilised than the scene of Mr. Galton's explorations, may not be found altogether useless. I have thought it unnecessary to prefix a map of Switzerland, as the excellent one of Keller, which, I could only repeat, is within the reach of all who care to consult it. On reperusing my manuscript, I have been startled by the very frequent occurrence of the invidious pronoun *I*; but as I do not pretend to having crossed any difficult passes, or ascended mountains which are not accessible to all, I must hope for the indulgence of my readers to a fault which is more easily pointed out than corrected; for, after all, egotisms in writing are not improved by being converted into nostracisms.

In conclusion, I must be allowed to state, that as the following pages have been written chiefly for my own pleasure, I have not scrupled to avail myself of the writings of others, wherever I have happened to light on a passage altogether

coinciding with my own formed opinion; and if even with this assistance I am not always able to convince the reader, and bring him over to my own way of thinking, let him remember I have no wish to dogmatise, but only to dispel prejudice, and suggest ideas.

London, 1856.