

**DEVON. THE SHIRE
OF THE SEA KINGS**

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Devon. The Shire of the Sea Kings by James C. Inglis

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JAMES C. INGLIS

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Via

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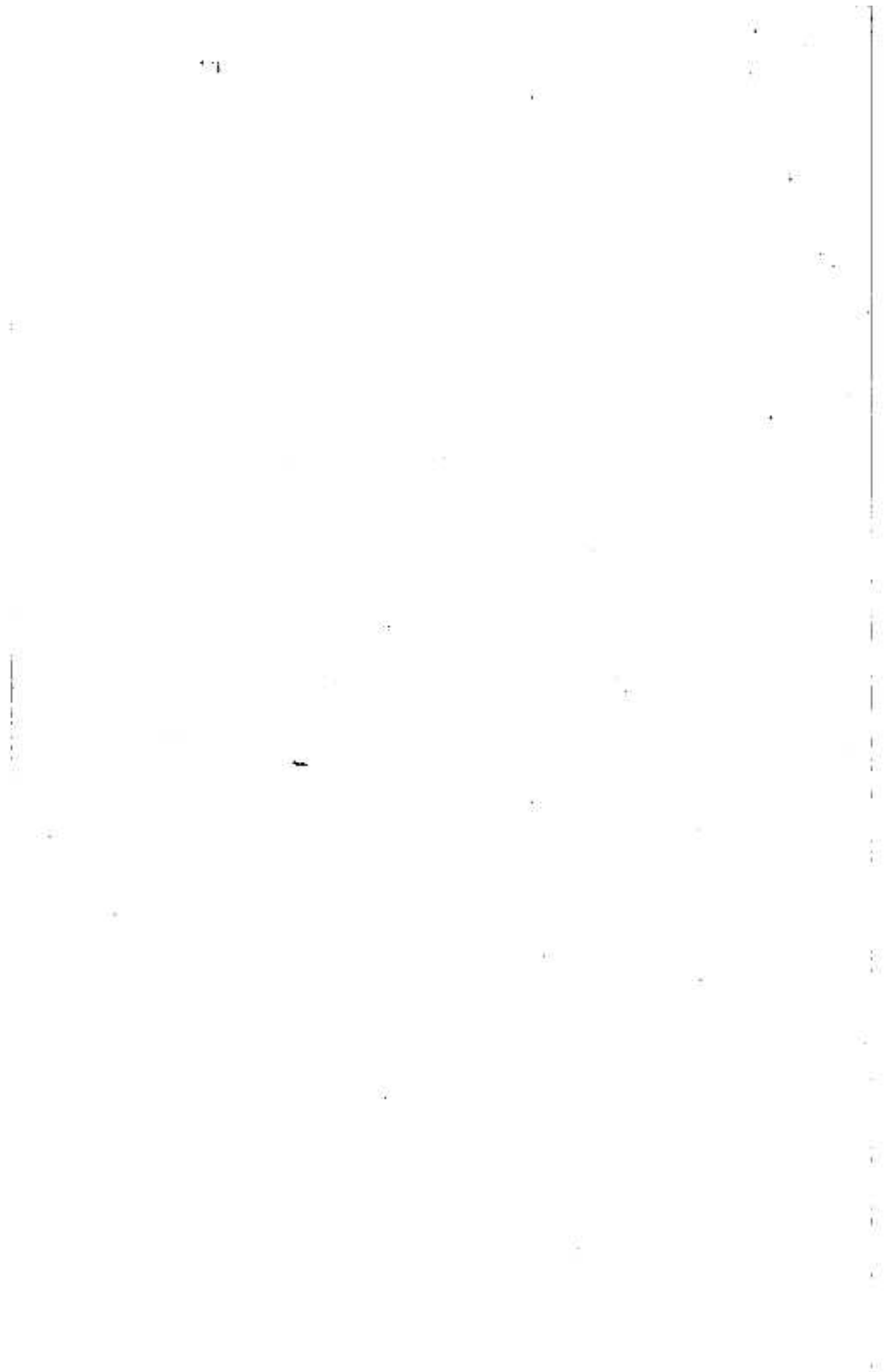


THE SHIRE OF THE SEA KINGS

Its Sunny Shores,

Bracing Moorlands and
Historic Sites.

(SECOND EDITION.)



DEVON.



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SPEED'S MAP OF DEVON—1611.



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PORTRAIT OF DRAKE.
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THE SHIRE OF THE SEA KINGS.

Preface.

THE County of Devon may fairly be described as the playground *par excellence* of the West, and that in the most comprehensive sense of the term. Michael Drayton and Thomas Fuller, who wrote both in verse and prose of Devonshire in the seventeenth century, justify the praise they lavished on the subject of their theme, by the existence of a certain "self-containedness" which materially assisted the Devonians to get more enjoyment out of life than the majority of their less favoured neighbours. The men of Devon wove their wool, made their cyder, reaped their rich harvests, and waxed merry over what Herrick, the poet-parson of Dean Prior, terms their "nut brown mirth and russet wit," which appears to have taken the congenial form of a perpetual round of wakes, quintells, morris-dances, shearing feasts, wassail-bowls, harvest homes, mummeries and Christmas revellings. The phenomenal extent of the northern and southern littorals, moreover, greatly favoured the free exportation of home products, as well as the importation, without let or hindrance, of every sort of foreign commodities, many of them luxuries and including possibly a certain amount of contraband. It was from the numerous harbours of Devon that men like Drake, Grenville, Raleigh, Hawkins, Davis, the Gilberts and other hardy and daring "adventurers" set out on the voyages of discovery which were to lay the foundation of that greater Britain which lies beyond the seas, and when England in "the spacious times of Great Elizabeth" was threatened with the dangers of a Spanish invasion, it was Devon that provided