

**OUR INLAND SEA;
THE STORY OF A
HOMESTEAD**

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Our inland sea; the story of a homestead by Alfred Lambourne

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ALFRED LAMBOURNE

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PREFACE.

Our Inland Sea now appears in its final form. It was, in part, first issued as newspaper and magazine articles, and secondly as an illustrated pamphlet. The latter publication was given an extensive circulation on both sides the Atlantic, having passed through many issues, so that in that form, the work appeared to contain—ten years having elapsed between the first and last editions—a certain vitality. It was originally printed in book form—Boston, 1895—for use as a presentation souvenir; few of these volumes, however, having been seen by the public. Once again it was issued in book form, locally, 1902. In the present volume there is much additional, and an almost entirely new arrangement of the matter that the work contains.

As will readily be seen, the book is composed of paragraphs taken from an irregular diary, segregated, of course, from other matter con-

tained therein and re-arranged, with now and then a conjunctive word or sentence, and a few imaginary and explanatory paragraphs.

It was the writer's desire to carry out to the full the plan here outlined. He would, had it been possible to him, have made out of what is now a past dream, an unquestioned reality. The arrangements by which he surrendered his Homestead Right—No. 12592—to the State of Utah, and the legal fight thereafter, the questions as to whether the land was of a mineral or agricultural character, are matters of local and departmental record. The receipts for attorneys' fees; papers of hearing; demurrers; answers to demurrers, etc., without end, are facts. So, too, is the key to my hut which I still retain; and the circulars, catalogues, etc., which I received whilst planning my vineyard, a vineyard which the local papers declared at the time, was to be like unto that of Naboth, whose luxuriant beauty caused a tragic episode in the history of ancient Israel.

“That is best which lieth nearest.”

INTRODUCTION.

The Inland Sea is unique. In the Quarternary period, so our geologists tell us, a vast body of glacier-fed water covered the valleys of north-western Utah. Of the ancient Bonneville, as the vanished sea is designated, our subject is the bitter fragment. The first mention of the Inland Sea was made by Baron La Hontan, in 1689. A Mr. Miller, of the Jacob Astor party, stood by its shore in 1820, and Mr. John Bedyear in 1825. Members of Captain Bonneville's expedition looked upon its waters from near the mouth of Ogden River, in 1833, and Bonneville gave a rather fanciful description of the sea, as viewed from the mountain side (Irving), although it is not certain if ever he was himself, an eye-witness of the scene. However his name attaches to the great fossil body of water, whose shore lines may still be seen along the sides of the neighboring valleys.

Once the Inland Sea was described as a sullen, listless, deadly sheet of water. Such it is not. On the contrary, however, one must receive with caution, the statements of later writers. Alternately one is captivated by the strange beauty which the place presents, or repelled by the ugliness that is seen along its shores.

By the low grounds marking the margins of the valleys; by the flats, white with encrusted salt and alkali; the beaches are truly forbidding. Melancholy appears to have there taken up its permanent abode.

Where the mountains stoop to the sea, or where the islands lift from its surface, are scenes both grand and imposing. There are beaches of pebbles and sand; extensive marshes, at the river mouths, haunted by the birds that love such places; shores on which are monster boulders, or which are littered with heaps of fallen stone; high cliffs look down upon the passer-by, along the horizon are chains of noble mountains, and always are the shining waters respondent to the