

Our Irish Tour 1820

By Mrs. Jamieson, (Late Miss Thurtle.)

Popular voyages and travels throughout the Continent & islands of Europe in which the geography, character, customs, and manners of nations are described, and the phenomena of nature most worthy of observation are illustrated on scientific principle

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MONTAGUE was an only son ; he with two daughters engrossed the whole attention of Mrs. Montague, who had been for some years a widow. Her son had never left her roof, and her maternal indulgence, which at times bordered upon weakness, had greatly impeded the benefit he might otherwise have derived from the instructions of a young man of considerable abilities, who had undertaken the arduous task of tutor in Mrs. Montague's family.

Time however passed rapidly away, and Edward approached his seventeenth year with a superficial knowledge of Greek and Latin, but without possessing even the requisites for the ordinary topics of conversation. His cousin, a boy about two years younger than himself, having spent the Midsummer holidays at Montague House ; Mrs. Montague could not help remarking the difference between the two boys. For the first time in her life she saw her son's deficiencies, and with a sigh regretted she had not sent Edward to school with his cousin. Her affection at length submitted to her good sense, and she wrote to Dr. Walker upon the Subject, and begged he would point out the path she should pursue, in order before it was too late to repair her errors.

Dr. Walker was a gentleman of considerable literary but very extensive scientific knowledge. He had been the intimate friend of Mr. Montague, and in a very friendly manner answered this letter in person, when after a very long and interesting conversation, he proposed taking charge of Edward himself, provided Mrs. Montague would consent to their going abroad. Heart-breaking as was this proposal, after a few moments of painful silence she gave a trembling assent; and leaving the Doctor to communicate the plan to her son, she retired to her own chamber for about an hour, and then joined her family.

Preparations were immediately made for the departure of the travellers, and in the course of a fortnight all was ready. "Heaven preserve you, my dear boy," said Mrs Montague, as she kissed Edward's cold cheek, "Heaven preserve you." So far she had commanded her feelings, but fearing to agitate Edward, who appeared really palsied as she spoke, she gave her hand to Dr. Walker and hastily quitted the room.

Edward was roused from his reverie by the more demonstrative sorrow of his sisters at parting with him ; and Dr. Walker having intimated to the young ladies, that their mother might perhaps require their attendance, they obeyed the hint, and with tearful eyes withdrew.

Dr. Walker allowed his young friend half an hour's silent meditation, and then ringing the bell, he enquired if all were ready for their departure. Being answered in the affirmative, "Come Edward," said the good man, "we shall be later than I intended."

Edward took up his hat with a sigh, and observing a miniature of his mother which had been brought home that morning, he put it in his pocket, and bidding the servant say he had taken it, he followed the Doctor down stairs, and for the first time in his life quitted the paternal mansion unaccompanied by any of his family.

"We will not be laughed at when we get to Rome, for our ignorance respecting our native land," said Dr. Walker to his pupil, as the carriage drove through Portland. place. "We will make an excursion through the British Isles, and we shall then have the pleasure of judging, whether we may not reap both profit and advantage from our peregrinations at home, as well as from more extensive

rambles abroad. You have visited the principal buildings in London, and you will not be less pleased with some other cities of your native isle.”

“ We shall go through Oxford, shall we not, sir ?” enquired Edward, as his eye glanced over a travelling map of England, which the Doctor held in his hand, “ and so on to Worcester. But, “ continued he, “ I should like sometimes to deviate from the direct road.”

D R . W.—“ You shall be gratified in this request, although our perambulations must not extend far out of the beaten track. I cannot, however, help observing, that in the arduous undertaking we have commenced, you will understand it is not my intention to run from London to Oxford, and from Oxford to Edinburgh, from Edinburgh to Paris, and so on, in so many days ; nor simply to calculate as to the probability of our reaching a particular place in so many hours. We travel for mental improvement ; to study men and manners ; to inspect minutely the wonderful phenomena of nature, the ingenious productions of art, and, above all, to know ourselves. In the various countries we shall traverse there will be many subjects for contemplation, many calls upon our patience and forbearance ; many incentives to that charity, which ‘ beareth all things ;’ and many demands upon our liberality both of purse and mind. The man who travels need not *forget* his country, but he should forget its *pre-judices* ; he should, in fact, become a citizen of the world. The man who cannot accommodate himself in some degree to the customs and manners of the different nations through which he travels ; who is disgusted in one place at the light-hearted gaiety of this people ; at the gravity of another ; the super-stition of a third, and so on, had much better remain at home. Sterne has given a humourous list of travellers. If I recollect right, he mentions “ idle travellers, inquisitive travellers, lying travellers, proud travellers, vain travellers, and splenetic travellers ;” to which he subjoins the following—

“ Travellers of *necessity*,” as he calls them. “ Delinquent and felonious travellers, unfortunate and innocent travellers, simple travellers, and sentimental travellers ;” to which, *with* his permission, we will add, intelligent travellers. Under this last class, dear Edward, we will endeavour to arrange ourselves ; our time must not be wasted either in merely seeing sights, as some would call the inspection of the phenomena of nature, or the productions of art. Our mornings must be devoted to study ; your classical learning will be kept up, but I shall begin you with a course of mathematical instruction ; from that we will proceed to scientific inquiries, which depend on a knowledge of mathematical learning ; nor will theology, political economy, and other subjects that comprise the education of a gentleman, be neglected. But I am not now detailing the prospectus of a boarding-school.

“ You have then made up your mind to endure with fortitude all the hair breadth ’scapes we are doomed to encounter, as I dare say, we shall hardly quit the British Isles with, out putting your courage to the proof.” “ Indeed,” replied Edward, “ I flatter myself I shall not be a troublesome, though I fear you will find me an inquisitive traveller.”

The Goldmines of Wicklow.

DUBLIN is the second city in the British dominions, and presents a noble object when approached from the sea. The parliament-house is a magnificent structure, and the linen-hall is a noble building. Dublin contains about 200,000 inhabitants, and its views from Merion-square are extremely beautiful. As however our travellers were anxious to make the tour of Ireland speedily, they devoted but two or three days to its capital, and accordingly on the fourth day after their arrival they recommenced their journey.

“ Pray, Sir, as we pass through Wicklow, shall we not, see the copper mine at Cronbane.” “ Why no, for we shall be pressed for time in our Irish tour, and must, therefore, confine ourselves to visiting the most prominent features of Ireland, and you must in many instances content yourself with brief sketches of those of minor importance. The county of Wicklow produces gold as well as copper. Some considerable masses of this precious metal, were found in a brook running from west to east to the river of Avonmore, about seven English miles west of Arklow, and on the declivity of the mountain called Croughan Kinshelly. This mine is now worked for government, and it is said that a very massy vein has lately been discovered.”

Upon arriving at Wicklow, our travellers did but stay to refresh themselves with some of its celebrated ale, which indeed forms a principal part of its trade, and then continued their journey through

this mountainous and romantic country, which, though it is in many parts intercepted by bogs, is nevertheless extremely beautiful. The valleys are richly cultivated and particularly fertile, and the hills produce a variety of minerals and metals. From Wicklow they proceeded to Arklow ; and upon quitting that town, they soon perceived a considerable difference in the face of the country, for the soil of the county of Wexford, though it produces corn and grass in many parts ; is principally composed of a coarse cold land, and stiff clay. The capital is however populous and large, and was anciently reckoned, the principal, city of Ireland.

From Wexford they made an excursion into Kilkenny, in order to visit the celebrated cavern of Dunmore Park, and they were amply repaid for this deviation from the direct road to Waterford. This cavern is situated in a fine plain, rising indeed here and there into small hills. The country all around abounds with lime-stones, and quarries of beautiful black marble, variegated with white shells. Unlike those of Derbyshire and Mendip, this cave descends perpendicularly thirty yards from the top of a small hill, through an opening forty yards in diameter. The sides of this pit are composed of limestone rock, adorned with various kinds of shrubs and trees ; and during the travellers descent into this cave, which is an arduous undertaking, he is amused with flights of pigeons and jackdaws, which, disturbed in their peaceful retreats, fly for safety to the purer regions of day.

When he reaches the bottom, he sees one side of this pit supported by a natural arch of rock above twenty-five yards wide. On passing under this arch, two subterraneous passages present themselves. That leading to the right is covered with rocks and stones, coated with spar in the most whimsical shapes, and formed from the droppings of the roof. These stones are transparent, and take a fine polish, and being extremely ornamented with different colours, they are quite as beautiful as *moco*. In many places the petrifications from above having met those on the ground, a variety of gothic arches of all sizes and shapes are formed, which present a very picturesque and pleasing appearance. The passage on the left is not so high as that on the right ; it is watered by a purling rill, which adds considerably to its beauty ; its soft murmurs agree with the awful solemnity of the place, which though faintly glittering with spangles, is nevertheless sombre to a great degree. The heaviness of the atmosphere preventing the lights from giving a brilliant lustre to the crystallized roof,

“ A few years ago,” said their guide, “ some travellers found in the bed of this stream, the bones of a hundred human beings at least. Some of them were very large, and upon being taken out of the water instantly crumbled away.”

“ I suppose,” said Dr. Walker, “ there was some inscription in the cavern which led to an opinion as to how they came there.”

GUIDE. “ No, in none at all, nor is there any tradition in the neighbourhood about them; but they might, I think, be the bones of persons who fled in the civil wars to these caverns for shelter, and perhaps could not find their way out, for you see, Sir, they are very intricate, and if I go beyond a certain distance, I always make some kind of mark as a guide for my return.”

Many of the rocks, on the roof and sides of this cavern, are black marble full of white spots, of a shell like figure ; which takes a beautiful polish, and is much used for slabs, chimney-pieces, &c. In some deep and wet parts of the surrounding quarries, this elegant fossil is seen in the first stages of its formation ; the shells are real, but so softened by time and their moist situation, as to be capable of receiving the stony particles into their pores, by whose cohesive quality, they in time become those hard white curls that give value to the marble ; and it is very remarkable, and a proof that these white spots have been real shells, and thus formed, that the longer a chimney piece or slab is used, the more of these spots ripen into view.

When our travellers parted from their guide, Edward observed, “ that the cavern of Dunmpre Park was very beautiful, but after seeing those in Derbyshire, Sir, it does not appear to us with very great advantage.”

Edward was much delighted with the woollen manufactory, and our travellers had the curiosity to visit the Barony of Forth, the inhabitants of which are the descendants of a British colony, and retain their native language, manners and many singular customs to this day.

Waterford and Cork.

UPON arriving at Waterford they were charmed with its beautiful harbour, in which ships of great burden ride, even at the quay, which is about half a mile in length, and of a considerable breadth. The Suir on which the town stands is broad, deep, and rapid, and few towns in Ireland present a more busy scene than Waterford. Packet-boats sail regularly between this port and Milford Haven, and it carries on a large trade with Newfoundland. Here our travellers staid one day, in order to visit the white glass manufactory, and to witness the departure of a number of vessels bound for America, laden with hogs, butter, beef, &c.

The country leading to the city of Cork, drew forth expressions of admiration from Edward; from many of the adjacent hills the views are extremely diversified and beautiful, and extend to a considerable distance. The city itself is reckoned the next in size and importance to Dublin, and carries on a very lucrative trade with various parts of the world.

“ We shall no longer continue our journey along the coast,” said Dr. W. “for we should by so doing lose a great deal of time.” “ Ireland is not, I perceive,” said Edward, “ a country made up of bogs and heaths, as I have heard many people represent it ; I am quite sure that some of the scenes we have viewed, would really make very beautiful sketches ; and nothing can exceed the hospitality of its inhabitants.” “ Very true,” replied his tutor, “ but we have not as yet, *traversed* Ireland ; you will remember, and I dare say before we quit it, you will have reason to point out to your mother, many parts she would not perhaps find so agreeable as those described in your last letter. We are indeed approaching the celebrated lakes of Killarney, and your pen and pencil will have ample scope for their descriptive powers ; the Country we are now passing is fertile and pleasing, but many parts of Kerry are full of almost inaccessible mountains, where agriculture is totally out of the question. Still however, as many of these mountains are not wholly barren. grazing is much attended to ; and here many of the black cattle are fed, which are cured, salted, and shipped off in such prodigious quantities at Cork. Between the months of August and January, 100,000 head of black cattle are said to be killed in that city for exportation. As our travellers advanced, the road became more mountainous ; but the view, as they gradually approached the lakes, amply repaid them the trifling inconveniences they had encountered in reaching them. Few scenes indeed present such a variety of prospects. Perpendicular rocks, hanging woods, magnificent cascades ; in short, nature appears to have poured forth her various beauties with such a boundless profusion, that the most fastidious taste, may in vain endeavour to point out a deficiency, or attempt to supply a defect.

The Lake of Killarney.

THE Lake of Killarney is surrounded by high mountains, and it is properly divided into three parts, called the lower, middle, and upper lakes. The northern, or lower lake, is about six miles in length, and from three to four in breadth. The country on this and the eastern boundary, is diversified with gentle swells, many of which afford beautiful prospects of the lake and surrounding scenery. The southern shore is composed of immense mountains, rising abruptly from the water, and covered with woods of the finest timber. From the centre of the lake, the view of this range is wonderfully sublime, presenting to the eye an extent of forest six miles in length, and nearly a mile in breadth, hanging as a robe of rich luxuriance on the sides of two mountains, whose bare tops, rising above the whole, form a perfect contrast to the verdure of the lower region. On the side of one of these mountains, is O’Sullivan’s cascade, which falls into the lake with a roar that strikes the timid with awe. The view of this sheet of water is uncommonly fine, appearing as if it were descending from an arch of wood, which overhangs it above, seventy feet above the level of the lake. Coasting along this shore, affords an almost endless entertainment, every change of position presenting a new scene ; the rocks, hollowed, and worn into a variety of forms by the waves, and the trees and shrubs bursting from the pores of the sapless stone, forced to assume the most uncouth shapes, to adapt themselves to their fantastic situations.

The islands are not so numerous in this as in the upper lake ; but there is one of uncommon beauty, namely, Inisfallan, nearly opposite O’Sullivan’s cascade. When our travellers landed upon this enchanting spot, Edward: was lost in astonishment as he viewed its beautiful bays, and projecting promontories, skirted and crowned with arbutus, holly, and other shrubs and trees. The interior parts are diversified with hills and dales, and gentle declivities, on which every tree and shrub appears to advantage ; the soil is rich, even to luxuriance, and trees of the largest size incline across the vales,

forming natural arches, with ivy entwining in the branches, and hanging in festoons of beautiful foliage. Under the shade of these natural arches, Edward proposed they should take their frugal meal, to which the doctor consented ; they accordingly seated themselves on the projecting roots of a huge oak, and there, soothed by the soft murmurs of the waters of the lake, together with the melody of the feathered tribe, which found a peaceful asylum in these calm retreats, they rather mused than talked away the sultry hours of noon.

“ Well,” said Dr. Walker to his pupil, “ are you inclined to continue our excursion, or are we to be hushed to our evening repose by the soothing lullabies which surround us. I confess, that although alive to the witchery of this lovely scenery, I vote for our departure. We have not yet seen the Promontory of Mucruss, which divides the Upper from the Lower Lake, and which is indeed a perfect land of enchantment you will find it equals, if it does not excel, the scene before us.”

Upon arriving at the promontory in question, they traversed the road which is carried through the centre of it, and which unfolds all the interior beauties of the place. Among the distant mountains, that called Tark, appears an object of magnificence, while Mangerton’s more lofty, though less interesting summit, soars above the whole. At the extremity of Mucruss, is that celebrated rock, called the Eagle’s Nest, which produces wonderful echoes.

“ Pray, Sir,” said Edward, after listening for some time to the different vibrations which met his ear in various directions, “ how are echoes described or accounted for ?”

“ Your question will first of all demand the explanation of *sound* in general, which you should thoroughly understand before you can possibly comprehend the nature of echoes. I shall therefore endeavour to give you a perfect idea of the phenomenon of sound.

“ When bodies move in elastic fluids, they condense that part towards which they move, at the same time that the part they recede from is rarefied. This condensation or rarefaction must produce an undulatory or vibratory motion in the fluid.

“ Thus, if a body, by percussion or otherwise, be put into a tremulous motion, every vibration of the body will excite a wave in the air, which will proceed in all directions, so as to form a hollow sphere ; and the quicker the vibrations of the body succeed each other, the less will be the distance between each successive wave. The sensation excited in the mind by means of these waves, which enter the ear, and produce a like motion in a thin membrane stretched obliquely across the auditory passage is called *sound*.

“ That bodies move or tremble when they produce sound, requires no particular proof: it is evident in drums, bells, and other instruments, whose vibrations being large and strong, are therefore more perceptible ; and it is equally clear, that a similar vibration is excited in the air, because this vibration is communicated through the air to other bodies that are adapted to vibrate in the same manner : thus bells, glasses, basons, and musical strings, will sound merely by the action propagated from other sounding bodies.

“ It is established, as well by mathematical reasoning, from the nature of an elastic fluid, whose compression is as the weight, as from experiment, that all sounds whatever, arrive at the ear in equal times, from sounding bodies equally distant. This common velocity is 1142 English feet in a second of time. The knowledge of the velocity of sound, is of use in determining the distances of ships, or other objects: for instance, suppose a ship fires a gun, the sound of which is heard five seconds after the flash from the ignition of the powder is seen ; then 1142 multiplied by five, gives the distance 5710 feet, or one English mile and 330 feet.

“ When the aerial waves meet with an obstacle which is hard, and of a regular surface, they are reflected ; and consequently, an ear placed in the course of these reflected waves, will perceive a sound similar to the original sound, but which will seem to proceed from a body situated in like position and distance behind the plane of reflection, as the real sounding body is before it. This reflected sound is called an *echo*.

“ The waves of sound being thus reflexible, nearly the same in effect as the rays of light, may be deflected or magnified by much the same contrivances as are used in optics. From this property of reflection, it happens, that sounds uttered .in one focus of an elliptical cavity, are heard much magnified in the other focus ; instances of which are found in several domes and vaults, particularly the whispering gallery of St. Paul’s Cathedral, London, where a whisper uttered at one side of the dome is reflected to the other, and may be very distinctly heard. On this principle also are constructed the *speaking-trumpet* and the *hearing trumpet*, which either are, or ought to be, hollow parabolic conoids, having a perforation at the vertex, to which the mouth is to be applied in speaking, or the ear in hearing.

“ There is a remarkably fine echo in Westmoreland, on the lake of Ulswater, which I once heard. Our barge having taken up a station where the finest echoes were to be obtained from the surrounding mountains, one of the cannon on board was discharged ; the report was echoed from the opposite rocks, where, by reverberation, it seemed to roll from cliff to cliff, and return through every cave and valley, till the decreasing tumult gradually died away upon the air. The instant it ceased, the sound of every distant waterfall was heard ; but before I could express my pleasure and admiration, the returning echo from the hill behind, again claimed my attention. The report was then repeated like a peal of thunder bursting over our heads, continuing for several seconds, flying from point to point, till, once more, the sound gradually declined. Again the voice of waterfalls stole upon mine ear, till to the right the more distant thunder arose from other mountains, and seemed to take its way up every winding dell and creek, sometimes behind, sometimes on this side, then on that, passing with incredible swiftness. When the echo reached the mountains within the line and channel of the breeze, it was heard at once on the right and on the left, at the extremities of the lake, in this manner was the report of the discharge repeated seven times distinctly.

“ At intervals we were relieved from this entertainment, which united tumult and grandeur, by the music of two French horns, whose harmony was repeated from every recess, which echo haunted on the borders of the lake. Here we appeared to have a whole band at our command. Sometimes we heard the full-toned breathings of the organ ; then the hoarser notes of the bassoon burst on our delighted ears ; while the caves, the wooded creek, and trilling waterfalls gave back the soft and gentle tones of the melting lute. In the midst of this entrancing concert, our boatmen fired off six brass cannon : it is impossible to describe to you the extraordinary sensation produced by the sudden uproar which followed this discharge. It appeared to me, as if the rocks, the mountains, the woods, the vales, were all uprent, and thrown together in horrible confusion. Nothing short of a general wreck of nature, could, to my imagination, have produced such a wild and awful tumult. I confess I was for a few minutes speechless, and that something very like the sensation of fear, glanced across my mind, at the wild and tumultuous uproar, which interrupted the harmony that had given me so much delight [1].”

The upper lake, which they now approached, is about four miles in length, and from two to three in breadth : it is almost surrounded by mountains, from which descend a number of beautiful cascades. The islands in this lake are numerous, and afford an amazing variety of picturesque views.

The middle lake is small, when compared with the upper and the lower; nor does it present so much variety of prospect ; but it boasts of the lofty Mangerton as its eastern boundary, down which descends a cascade of 150 feet perpendicular. This fall of water is supplied by a circular lake on the summit of the mountain, called the Devil’s Punch Bowl, which, on account of its immense depth, and continual overflow of water, is reckoned one of the greatest curiosities of Killarney.

Between the lakes of Killarney and Limerick stood an ancient castle, which had belonged, from time immemorial, to the family of Montague ; and, though not in the direct road, Dr. Walker desired the postillions to drive to Montague castle : the man eagerly asked, if they were acquainted with the owner, to which the doctor, having answered in the affirmative, he began making innumerable questions, flogging his horses violently one moment, and then almost stopping them, to enable him to make some new enquiry respecting the family. When Dr. Walker told him, that Edward was the heir, he burst into a long congratulatory apostrophes : “ Long life to your honour, and good luck to your honour ; and sure now,” said the man, “ you shall drive to your own castle as ye ought.” With that he resumes his favourite occupation of flogging, hailing the few straggling individuals he met with, telling them of the honour he had in driving the young heir. Upon approaching the ancient seat of his ancestors, Edward was not much struck by its appearance, and having gone over the deserted apart-

ments of what had been formerly the scene of feudal splendour, Doctor Walker and his pupil resumed their seat in the chaise. The latter, though but seventeen, remained for some time absorbed in profound thought, which the Doctor did not choose to interrupt.

The country about Limerick is fertile, and particularly rich in pasture. The town is divided into two divisions, the one called the Irish, and the other the English town. In the latter, our travellers took up their abode for a few days they were anxious to inspect the woollen, linen, and paper manufactories, which are carried on to a great extent at this place. They were not a little surprized at the handsome streets and extensive quays, which have been lately erected; and much pleased with the number of hospitals and public structures that adorn the city, and at the same time powerfully display the humanity and public spirit of the inhabitants.

Killaloe.

“WE will to-morrow view the cascade on the Shannon,” said Dr. Walker, as they returned from the linen manufactory : “ it is only about six miles above Limerick, and it is, I understand, very beautiful. The celebrated and unfortunate Earl of Strafford, to whom Ireland is indebted for her linen manufactory, had formed some idea of removing the rock, which impedes the navigation of this fine river, and forms the cascade : whether he found this undertaking impracticable, or whether he was interrupted in his design by the disasters which recalled him to his native country, I do not know ; but the rock still remains, and of late years the upper and lower part of the river have been connected by a canal. This noble river rises in the county of Leitrim, and after a course of upwards of one hundred and fifty miles, it falls into the Atlantic, between Kerry Head and Cape Lean. Between Killaloe and Limerick, just above the cascade, is a very fine salmon and eel fishery. The banks of this river are fertile, and it contains several beautiful islands. “ I should like extremely,” replied Edward, “ to follow the course of the Shannon. Do you think we could, Sir.”—“We will see what can be done,” said Dr. W. ; “ I have not the least objection to this arrangement ; for there are many towns seated on its banks, the first of which is Killaloe.”

Edward was delighted with the plan ; and on the following morning, the travellers pursued their journey, following the course of the river until they reached Killaloe. The bridge over the Shannon, consisting of nineteen arches, being the only object worthy of attention, they took an early dinner, and, hiring a boat, desired their servant would meet them at Bannaghar.

Our travellers were charmed with the view of the country through which they passed. The river had now assumed, the form of a lough or lake, called Loch Derg ; and as the weather was very fine and temperate, they were sorry when they approached Bennaghar. Here they staid a short time to view the canal, which opens an inland communication between Dublin and Limerick. “ I see nothing to detain us here,” said Edward, as they returned to the town of Bennaghar, “ and I am anxious to reach Athlone :” but he was quite disappointed as he approached that place. He had pictured Athlone as a large, strong, well built city, since its capture by Baron de Ginckle, in the reign of William III. as described as “ an effort of boldness and vigour, to which history scarcely furnishes a parallel.” Dr. Walker was amused at the expression of his intelligent countenance. “ Why,” said the doctor, “ what did you expect to find ? There, you see, is a bridge composed of many arches, and bearing marks of antiquity upon the very face of it. There, you perceive, are many beautiful figures and inscriptions, which will afford you some amusement perhaps : they relate to the great successes of Queen Elizabeth, of renowned memory, and are meant to perpetuate the recollection of her *clemency*. You recollect, I suppose, the numbers she caused to be executed, and their heads to be placed upon conspicuous situations, in order to deter others from incurring her displeasure. From the disappointment your countenance expresses, I suppose you will have no objection to quit this great town, and proceed immediately to Carrick.”—“ None at all,” replied Edward, “ this is indeed a poor miserable place, and appears doubly so, from the idea I had formed of its importance.” And the travellers accordingly pursued their journey, but not with quite so much ease and pleasure as hitherto.

The bogs of Ireland.

THE counties of West Meath and Longford are much interrupted by bogs ; and Edward began at length to discover, that his mother might possibly be inconvenienced by traveling in Ireland. The roads were now become very serpentine, and it often happened, that in order to get forwards one

mile, they were obliged to retreat two. Edward became impatient more than once, as their guide prevented his taking what appeared a very sure, gentle, undulating road, covered with moss, and looking far more inviting than that he was compelled to follow. "Sure now and you sink," said the man, "if you go there; 'tis a bog." The bogs in many parts of Ireland rise and fall in alternate hills and valleys, and the deceitful appearance they present of a smooth green surface, has often proved fatal to strangers. Indeed many cattle are lost in these bogs, in the spring; for as the grass generally grows very luxuriantly near their edges, animals sometimes approach too near, and fall into the pits or sloughs, and are drowned. Carrick, although a place neither possessing amusement or profit, was a welcome asylum to the weary travellers. "I wish the good people, possessing land in the country through which we have just passed, would adopt the draining system," said Dr. Walker, as he took his seat by a turf fire. "The inconvenience of these bogs is very great; a considerable part of the kingdom being rendered entirely useless by them, to say nothing of the dangers to which they expose ignorant travellers. Every barbarous and ill-inhabited country abounds in bogs: now, although Ireland is neither in a state of barbarism, nor is there any lack of inhabitants, yet there are few countries where there are so many persons destitute of employment; many who live nobody knows how, and so many whose intelligent minds, which are susceptible of as much improvement as those of any other people in the world, are so obscured by poverty and oppression. In former times, these bogs served as a place of refuge to the inhabitants, when they were first invaded by the Danes and Britons; and indeed they are now made use of often as places of security, not against foreign invaders, but against custom-house officers. The natives are well acquainted with the different natures of these bogs, some parts of which will bear a man, while the spot close to it would apparently engulf him. When the Irish peasants receive intimation, and they have generally pretty accurate informers upon these occasions, that they are likely to be disturbed in the formation of their favourite liquor, *Whiskey* they plunge the *still* into a bog, and are soon beyond the reach of their pursuers."

"But how, Sir," enquired Edward, "do you suppose these bogs were originally formed?"—"That is not a very easy question to answer; for there are different opinions upon the subject. Ireland abounds in springs, but these springs are mostly dry in summer, and the grass and weeds grow thick about these places. In the winter, the water swells prodigiously, and softening the loose earth, the grass floats on their surface, the roots of which, becoming spongy, form a kind of mat. As it collects loose particles of earth or seeds, or leaves, it assumes, by degrees, a substantial form. In the spring it dries and withers, and becomes turf; but new grass springing up through this turf, from the seeds of the last year's crop, this surface, which is again lifted up in the following winter, accumulates, and becomes thicker and thicker, until it acquires such a consistency, that the spring which formed it, has no longer the power of acting upon it. This water, as it is thus prevented from rising beyond a certain degree, extends itself in every direction, and thus increases the size of the bog. When first formed, it is called a *quaking bog*; but when, in the course of years, it becomes an elastic substance, it is called a *turf bog*. This turf is used, as you perceive, for firing. The bottom of bogs is generally a kind of white clay, or rather I should say, sandy marle: so that a little water makes it exceedingly soft; and when dry, it forms a light dust; the grass has therefore no hold upon this uncertain tenure, and is therefore easily loosened, and then floats as we have described. Although the neighbourhood of these bogs is very unwholesome, yet the Irish build their cabins very much in their neighbourhood. Turf is a most impenetrable substance, the rain makes no impression upon it; but stagnates on the surface, except that part which is exhaled by the sun; the vapour therefore that is thus drawn from the bogs is often putrid and stinking, and consequently the air in their vicinity must be infectious. In the turf bogs of Ireland, large quantities of timber have been found, which may be accounted for thus: the Earl of Cromartie mentions a curious circumstance, which fell under his own immediate observation in Scotland. Passing between Achidiscald and Gonnazd, in the neighbourhood of Lochbrun, he observed a firm standing wood so very old, that the trees were leafless and barkless: this, he was told, by a peasant, was the usual way in which firs decay; and that, in process of time, they would gradually throw themselves up from the roots, and thus perish. Some fifteen years afterwards, he was much surprized at finding the wood totally gone, and the spot on which it stood covered with a green moss. Having made enquiries upon the subject, he found the trees had fallen, as the peasant had foretold, and that nobody had been at the pains to carry it away; the green moss or fog had overgrown the whole of the timber; and that this moss, being nourished by the moisture which came down from the hill above it, had stagnated on the plain, and formed a regular bog: he was also told, that it was perfectly impassable: doubting the truth of the latter assertion, he immediately jumped upon it, and sunk up to the neck, as you would have done to-day, Edward, had it not been for our guide."

The Morse deer, which is very plentiful in America, appears to have been numerous in Ireland ; for in the particular neighbourhood we have just traversed, and about Fermanagh, many horns, and even heads, and in some places whole skeletons of that animal have been discovered at the depth of from four to fourteen feet, under ground. This part of Ireland produces very fine ambergris. At Sligo, and along the coast of Mayo, Kerry, and the isles of Arran, it is found in considerable quantities. “ I think,” said Edward, “ it is a very great pity, that so fine a country as this might be made, if properly attended to, should be so neglected.” “ I think so too,” replied Dr. Walker : “ perhaps when you return from your travels, and have made yourself well acquainted with human nature in its various forms, you will be able to do that, the necessity of which all seem willing to allow ; though as yet no one has had the courage or the skill to point out how it should be effected.” “ I will begin with my own castle,” said his pupil.

Wakes in Ireland.

FROM Carrick, the travellers proceeded to Leitrim ; on the road thither, they were not a little inconvenienced by the funeral of some cousin of their postillion. Upon stopping their poor, lean, half-starved animals, at a wretched inn, or rather hovel, by the road side, to give them a little water, Blarney learnt that a relation of his was dead ; and upon being asked to attend his wake, he said, “ he couldn’t refuse,” and so very quietly begged Dr. Walker and his pupil would just be so kind as to stop till the morning. In vain the travellers remonstrated ; Blarney was positive ; and Dr. Walker was obliged to get out of his chaise, and follow the postillion into the inn. There, to the great surprize of Edward, they found the corpse laid out upon the table, with candles, and plates of salt all about him. The host was very busy, as well as his dame ; and two girls, their daughters, appeared to be making great preparations for some sort of entertainment, rather than a funeral.

“ Sure and you’ll dance,” said one of them to Edward, who being but little acquainted with the manners of the poorer Irish, stared at the question ; but Dr. Walker, who knew the customs of the Irish peasantry well, answered for him, “ He likes blind man’s buff best.” The girl replied, “ that they should play blind man’s buff, and hunt the slipper too, as soon as her brother came back, who was gone to fetch the piper.” When this youth returned, he brought the melancholy intelligence, that the piper was sick, and could not come, but that he had brought a host of friends to lament over the dead. To say the truth, the friends came in so fast, and brought with them so strong a perfume of whiskey, that the travellers gladly accepted an invitation, given them by the girls, to go to the barn, where they soon heard sounds of doleful lamentations issuing from the house, which gradually increased, till they became a dreadful howl—“ Ah why did ye die ;” forming the burthen of the funeral song. The barn, in the mean while, presented a scene of joyous mirth ; blind man’s buff, and hunt the slipper, were followed up with great spirit. Towards morning Dr. Walker, as the sounds from within the inn gradually subsided, thought perhaps the postillion would now continue his journey : but he was mistaken ; he protested he would not move a step till his cousin was safely lodged in the ground ; and as our travellers were totally unacquainted with the road, they were obliged to make a virtue of necessity, and stay quietly till the middle of the day, when Blarney assured them he would make up for lost time. He was as good as his word ; for he flogged the wretched animals till he got them into a gallop ; and, regardless of the entreaties of his passengers, and the cracking of his crazy vehicle, Blarney drove on, and at length safely landed them at Leitrim.

Having thus followed the course of the Shannon to its source, they traversed the counties of Fermanagh, Tyrone, and Londonderry. They made some short stay at the capital of the last mentioned county, the siege of which, in the dispute between James II. and William III. for the crown of Great Britain, is deservedly celebrated. Londonderry stands on the Foyle, over which there is a wooden bridge of singular construction, one thousand and sixty-eight feet in length.

“ Now for the Giant’s Causeway,” said Edward joyfully, as they prepared to quit Londonderry : “ I really quite long to see it ; for I think I have heard that it is the finest exhibition of basaltic columns in the universe.” “ You have heard right,” replied Dr. Walker.

The Giant’s causeway—Basaltic, and Granite Rocks.

THE British dominions present the noblest specimens in the known world of columnar basalt ; amongst which, the Giant’s Causeway stands conspicuous, it consists of three piers of basalt columns,

which extend some hundred feet into the sea. It is surrounded by precipitous rocks, from 200 to 400 feet high, in which there are several striking assemblages of columns, some vertical, some bent or inclined, and some horizontal, and as it were mortised or driven into the rock. Bengore, which bounds the Causeway on the east, consists of alternate ranges of tabular and massive, with columnar basalt.

But among the various and grand objects on this coast, Pleskin is perhaps the most striking : it presents several colonnades of great height and regularity, separated from each other by tabular basalt; and at Fairhead, the north-east cape of Ireland, and forming the east side of Ballycastle Bay, there is a range of columns of from ten to twenty feet diameter, and between 200 and 300 feet high, supported upon a steep declivity, and offering to the mariner at sea the spectacle of a terrace, which towers nearly 600 feet above the waves that roll beneath.

Another Basalt district, which even exceeds the former in magnificent peculiarities, is that which presents itself in sailing down Loch Nagaul, in Mull. The coast of this island upon the right and left exhibits the step-like appearance of basaltic rocks in great proportion, with yawning caverns and fine columns.

The isles of Ulva and Gometra rise with the abrupt and irregular precipices common to this formation. The Treshamish Isles exhibit columnar and massive basalt, and in the midst of this grand panorama, Staffa presents itself. The columns, which are from sixty to ninety feet high, are approached by a fine causeway, rising gently from the deep, and an immense weight of tabular basalt appears supported by these columns. The pillars are perpendicular, inclined, and in some places extremely curved. In Fingal's Cave, the ranges of columns extend, in deep perspective, into the interior of the rock, presenting a scene of such unrivalled grandeur, as hitherto to have scorned the descriptive pen of the poet, or the pencil of the painter, to represent.

“ Pray, Sir,” said Edward, “Of what are the Basaltic columns composed ?”

DR. WALKER,—“ Basalt is always a homogeneous rock, and abounds in black oxyde of iron ; and a piece of basalt presented to a common observer, would immediately be pronounced the product of a volcano, the analogy between it and the lava being most striking.”

Upon reaching Fairhead, Edward was lost in astonishment. Even his glowing imagination had fallen short in the picture of the Giant's Causeway. He was perfectly speechless. “Was I wrong when I described the grandeur of this scene,” said Dr. Walker, as his pupil gazed with astonishment and delight at the magnificent scene before him. “ Oh no, Sir,” replied Edward, “Oh how I wish my mother and sisters could see this grand view ! I hope you will not quit Fairhead to day, Sir, I could gaze for ever.”—“ No,” replied Dr. Walker, “You shall pass one more day here ; but we have, you must remember, a finer prospect of this kind in reserve—the Isle of Staffa.”

Edward was unwilling to allow any view could be finer than the one before him. The next day unfortunately proved very stormy, and the travellers, although they received much gratification in contemplating the majesty of the waves as they broke against the Basaltic columns, were compelled to pass the greater part of the day in the inn where they had taken up their abode, and where they amused themselves with the following short dissertation upon rocks.

EDWARD.—“ In the book you gave me, Sir, upon the formation, or rather nature of mountains, it says that green stone is often found upon primary rocks.”

DR. WALKER. " Exactly so.”

“ And,” pursued Edward, “Primitive rocks are generally found in large masses or blocks, not regularly stratified, and affecting a vertical arrangement in their fractures and fissures. Sometimes they are of a perfectly homogeneous texture, commonly hard and durable, and sometimes composed of two or three ingredients blended together; they are generally crystalline in their texture, and usually constitute the loftiest mountains.

“ The transition series of rocks, or those deemed by the *Wernerians*, next in point of antiquity, to the primitive, are less lofty than the former. In many instances, they present a slaty texture ; and they

seem to have been deposited in strata, or layers, which are seldom either vertical or horizontal, but variously inclined to the horizon.

“ The secondary rocks, or the more recent series, are nearly, if not quite, horizontal in their position. In their texture they are soft, and, consequently, easy of decay ; and they appear rather as mechanical deposits than as chemical compounds which have resulted from fusion, crystallization, or solution. But I think I can recollect the exact divisions of mountains into four classes, as arranged by Werner and his disciples, namely, 1. Primitive ; 2. Intermediate ; 3. Secondary; 4. Tertiary; to which may be added Volcanic mountains, as a 5th class.

“ I. Primitive mountains are composed of 1. Granite; 2. Gneiss ; 3. Micaceous shistus ; 4. Argillaceous shistus ; 5. Primitive lime-stone ; 6. Trap ; 7. Porphyry ; 8, Sienite ; 9. Serpentine ; 10. Topaz rock; 11. Quartz; 1 1 2. Silicious shistus.

“ II. Intermediate mountains are composed of, 1. Limestone; 2. Trap; 3. Amygdaloid; 4. Wacken.

“ III. Secondary mountains are composed of, 1. Sand, stone; 2. Limestone; 3. Gypsum; 4. Chalk; 5. Coal ; 6. Common Salt; 7. Argillaceous Iron-stone and Calamine; 8. Trap.

“ IV. Tertiary mountains are composed of, 1. Sand and and Pebbles ; 2. Clays and Mud ; 3. Bituminous Tufa.

“ V. Volcanic mountains emit, 1. Lava; 2. Pumice; 3. Scorïæ. The lava is sometimes mingled with felspar, quartz, or granite. If the mountain be a secondary mountain, marble, calcareous spar, gypsum, and similar substances are ejected.”

DR. WALKER.—“ These different series are tolerably arranged in regard to each other ; the primary rocks forming the basis upon which the others rest : the transition rocks upon these primaries, are immediately recumbent, which are succeeded by the varieties of the secondary rocks, and by their detritus, constituting alluvial matters and soils. If the wind does not abate to-morrow, we may, perhaps, have time to go to Loch Neagh. This lake is worthy of notice from its peculiar qualities of turning wood into stone. Some of the ancient writers have gone so far as to say, that it would turn that part of the wood which was in the mud, into iron ; the part in the water, into stone, while the part above the water still remained as wood. Mankind delight in the marvellous, and in the early periods of the history of man, we have innumerable instances of the union of great wisdom and of great folly. Men, unaccustomed to search for natural causes, as in the earliest ages of the world, have invariably attributed every uncommon appearance, to the production of invisible beings, such as fairies, genii, and so forth. As they advance in knowledge, they are apt to rush into the opposite extreme, and suppose that every thing contains within itself an all-sufficient power or cause, whereby it acts or is acted upon, without the interference of an all-wise and mighty Creator. I would wish *you*, Edward, not to rest content with hearsay intelligence, where you can from your own observation have the opportunity of judging for yourself. The most patient investigators have always been the most successful enquirers. Two of the greatest philosophers the world ever saw, Lord Bacon, and Sir Isaac Newton, are in nothing so much superior to all other philosophers as in the deliberation and patience with which they pursued their enquiries. They sought for truth with the most unwearied diligence, they never adopted speculation for fact, nor were they satisfied with the semblance in place of the reality.

The Petrifying Qualities of Lough Neagh.

“ BUT to return to Loch Neagh,” said the Doctor, “ from which I have unconsciously wandered, this lake is the largest in Ireland ; being twenty miles in length from the north-west to the south-east point, and nearly fifteen miles from the north-east to the south-west point. As to its petrifying qualities already mentioned, many writers suppose it consists, not so much in the lake as in the ground near it ; that the earth in the vicinity of the lake does produce these petrifications there is little doubt. The great Dr. Robert Boyle has observed that ‘ the earth harbours different kinds of *petrescent* liquors, and many of them impregnated with some sort of mineral or other.’ But this petrified wood is found *in* the lake, and as there are no springs, or waters, but are more or less impregnated with such sort of mineral and saline particles, (this is proved by analyzing the most limpid streams) which after evaporation,

still in the residuum, give some particles of salt, with some stones and mineral ores, Loch Neagh may produce these petrifications as well as the earth in its environs.

“ Petrifying springs are generally impregnated, some with calcareous particles of stones, and others with ferruginous and vitriolic particles. Those of the stony and calcareous kind, when they drop on wood, or other vegetables, act on them for the most part by incrustations and coalitions, which yet adhere close together ; they seldom turn the wood into stone ; but sticking to it coagulate on it, and by degrees cover them with a crust of a whitish substance, of different thickness, by which the wood is wrapped in a stony coat, this coat being broken before the wood is rotten, you will find a cavity in the stone, which is very often filled by a subsequent incrustation or petrification, the stony particles then taking the place of the rotten wood. Sometimes, indeed, these waters fermenting the pores of the wood, either longitudinally or transversely, insinuate themselves into them or fill them up with thin stony particles, and by their burning or corroding qualities proceeding from limestone, destroy the wood, and assume the shape of the plant they have thus destroyed.

“ These petrifications generally ferment with acids and spirit of vitriol, and by calcination may be reduced to lime,

“ Again, ferruginous or metallic petrifying springs, mostly act by insinuating their finest particles through the pores and vessels of the wood, or other vegetables, without increasing their bulk or altering their texture, though they greatly increase their specific gravity; and such is the petrified wood on the shores of Loch Neagh ; for it does not show any outward addition or coalition of matter covering it, but preserves the grains and vestiges of wood ; the only alteration perceptible is in the weight and closeness, and this is caused by the mineral particles which have filled up the pores.

“ Though mines have not been discovered in the vicinity of the Loch, there is reason to believe there are such in its neighbourhood, from the great quantity of iron-stones found on it's shores, and places adjacent to it, and from the yellowish ochre and clay to be met with in many places near it. If these iron-stones, which are very ponderous, and are of an ochrish yellow on the outside, and inwardly of a reddish brown, be calcined, they yield strongly to the magnet. That mines are generated, and found in the bowels of hills and mountains, is obvious to any person who has the least knowledge of metallurgy, and that springs also proceed from the same sources, is no less obvious ; therefore should a spring happen in any of these mountains to run through a vein of mineral ore of any kind whatever, it will wash and dilute some parts of such mineral, impregnate itself with unctuous, saline, and metallic particles, if in its way, whether under ground, or at its issuing out of the cliffs of the mountains, of the sides of the river, or of the lake in question, it meets with wood, vegetables, or any lax bodies, lodged in the mud or gravel, whose pores by the natural heat of the mineral streams, or any other accident, being open and duly prepared, these metallic molecularæ and saline particles will penetrate through, insinuate and lodge themselves into the pores and vessels of such wood, and fill them up, and by degrees turn them into stone. There are some of these lapidescent juices of so fine a substance, yet of so petrifying a nature, that they will penetrate bodies of very different kinds, and yet scarcely, if at all, visibly increase their bulk, or change their shape and colour.

“ That such springs there are, hidden under this lake will appear probable, from what has been said, and perhaps evident, from the accounts since received, that in the great frost of 1780 the lake was frozen over so as to bear men on horseback, yet several circular spaces remained unfrozen. Mineral streams, or exhalations, highly saturated with stony and mineral particles, are often found to have a petrifying quality, as is seen at the bath called Green Pillars, in the city of Buda, in Hungary. If such streams should in certain places find or force their way through the sand or pores of the earth, they may operate on wood, &c. buried in the ground, permeate its vessels, and by degrees turn it into stone ; and such is the most probable, if not the only reason, that can be assigned for those petrifications of wood found in sand.

“ Thus much for Loch Neagh, Edward, but I cannot quit this subject without mentioning those extraordinary petrifications which are to be met with in a great desert to the west of Cairo in Egypt, mentioned by Mr. Horneman. He says, ‘ that in the desert which forms a natural boundary to Egypt, on the west, extending from the Natron valley to the mountains Ummesogier, petrified wood is found

of various sizes and forms ; sometimes are seen whole trunks of trees of twelve feet in circumference, or more ; sometimes only branches and twigs, scarcely any of a quarter of an inch in diameter, and sometimes merely pieces of bark of various kinds, and in particular of the oak. Many of the great stems yet retain their side branches, and in many the natural timber has undergone so little change, that the circular ranges of the wood are discernible. The colour of this petrified wood is in general black, or nearly so, but in some instances it is of a light grey, and then so much resembling wood in its natural state, that their slaves would often collect it and bring it in for firing.’

“ These petrifications are sometimes scattered in single pieces, but are oftener found in irregular layers or strata, covering a considerable space of ground.

“ The appearance of this desert waste in which these petrifications are found, is that of a lee shore, over which the waters streaming before the storm have on their ebb deposited timber, or what else was carried away by the tide. No part of it has the appearance of having been worked by any kind of tool, and those trunks of trees which have been hastily pronounced by travellers masts of vessels, are nothing more than the branchless bodies of trees, thirty or forty feet long, which are in many parts splintered, but not by human workmanship. How this vast deposition of petrified timber came there, has not been decided, nor, most probably, will it ever be decided.

“ Many parts of these deserts are supposed to have been submerged at a period subsequent to the deluge, for there are in many parts marine shells of various kinds, found in the mountains which border upon it.”

EDWARD.—“ I think I should like to travel in Africa very much.”

DR. WALKER.—“You must then arm yourself with uncommon fortitude, the danger of traversing the interior of Africa is very great, and the fatigue such as those only accustomed to live like the hardy Bedouens can scarcely endure. Nevertheless, what has been done may still be done, and I do think I should have some pleasure in accompanying you.

[1] Travellers and Natural Historians have furnished us with many accounts of Echoes, which repeat words very often, or have some singularity. Misson, in his Description of Italy, speaks of an Echo in the vineyard of Simonetta, which repeats the same word 40 times. At Milan an Echo reiterates the report of a pistol 56 times; and if the report be very loud, 60 reiterations may be counted. But the most singular Echo is that near Rosneath, a few miles from Glasgow. If a person, placed in a proper situation for the sound to take effect, plays 8 or 10 notes on a trumpet, they are faithfully repeated by the Echo, but a *third* lower ; after a short silence another repetition is heard, in a still lower tone ; and another interval of silence is followed by a third repetition, in a tone a *third* lower.

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