

AN ARTIST'S RAMBLE THROUGH LULWORTH COVE, DORSETSHIRE, ENGLAND.

much to hold him long. To the coast, then, he will inevitably give his attention, and amidst the varied masses of tide-worn boulders and seaweed-fringed rocks of fine color and form, quiet tide-left pools, furrowed sand and most picturesque beach and shore, he will find ample food for brush and pencil. Eastward the actual shore is more generally accessible than to the westward, when once the boundaries of the cove are passed. Less lofty and less perpendicular, many a rough-and-tumble path is to be found down to the beach, over the cliff, and so the deep, varied, and irregular indentations of the coast can be got at readily.

A breast of a spot hereabouts known as "Beacon Hole," several large groups of jagged, isolated rock run out to sea, looking like the ugly teeth of some skeleton mammoth, against and around which the angry waves roar and dash themselves furiously into clouds of spray. With a gale blowing from the south-east, nothing can exceed the wild grandeur and desolation of the scene that is here presented. Woo betide the hapless barque, beating up Channel, that does not give it a wide berth! The Bay of Warborough, of which this line of rock makes the western horn, and the valley running up from it, with the little streamlet finding its way to the sea, may be called the limit of the Lulworth sketching district. Beyond this, to the eastward, the cliffs rise again until they reach St. Alban's Head, and, as it were, form a natural barrier to our progress along the coast. Do we desire to explore yet further, we are obliged to strike almost inland, and mounting once more the billowy downs, find the aspect of the country gradually changing. Fine and extensive as are the views herefrom, however, our business for a little longer lies within the district of the more barren downland.

The shores of Lulworth Cove itself are sufficiently character-

down the narrow road to the beach. Lulworth village has not much claim upon the artist's attention. Emphatically, as has been said, it is the neighboring coast that induces him to make it a favorite haunt, and though chalk is the prevailing geological formation, it is sufficiently intermingled with others to give it plenty of color and variety, and though a considerable distance



DURDLE-DOOR.

off, it may be recommended as the wildest piece of coast scenery within easy reach of the metropolis. Throughout the summer months a little steamer makes excursions two or three times a week from Swanage or Weymouth to Lulworth Cove. In fine weather this is a delightful trip, as by no other means can a fair estimate of the boldness and grandeur of the coast scenery be arrived at. The approach and entrance to the Cove, as has been

hinted, is especially striking, and has been likened to Balaclava in miniature. The way, however, is so narrow and treacherous that no attempt is ever made to run the steamer into the "blue basin," unless the sea is tolerably smooth, and the tide at its highest. For the sketcher desiring to take up his quarters there, this is not so easy or so rapid a method of reaching the spot as by rail to Wool, but from the picturesque point of view it is, of course, infinitely the better. Accommodation in the summer is not by any means certain to be found on a sudden, for the small inn is much frequented, and lodgings are scarce, for the simple reason that the cottages and houses are equally so. Lulworth is certainly not a place to go to with the intention of staying, unless arrangements for the purpose have been made beforehand.

As is the case, generally, on a wild unfrequented coast of this description, the sea-bird, in many of its varieties, abounds, and in the breeding season a rare spectacle is presented of feathered life all along the cliffy heights. The cormorant finds many a stronghold amidst the inaccessible crags and peaks of such places as "Durdle-Door" and

"Star-Hole," and coming round a headland suddenly in a boat upon the outer face of these, fine accidental incidents, appropriate to such scenery, may be seen arising out of the scare created



LULWORTH CASTLE.

istic, but do not present much "picturesque lumber," except for the few fishermen's boats, and that belonging to the coastguard, an odd shed or two, and the sparsely dotted houses that straggle

