

WHERE BEAUTIFUL RIVERS FLOW.

I'll sing to-night of a fairy land, in the lap of the ocean set...

—but this is a matter of detail, that we will waive for the present. You can take boat on the beach near the Causeway...

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ERIN'S BEAUTIES.

A VISIT TO THE GIANT'S CAUSEWAY

Bertush—Dunluce Castle—A Bunshee's Haunt—An Extraordinary Physical Phenomenon—Surrounded by Ringing Ocean.

Bertush is a little town full of wind and spray. The sea lashes the headlands and its shores are white with tumbling foam. The casual observer will discover nothing more entertaining than the numerous hotels and the omnibuses that await the station when the train comes in from Belfast.

ROAD OF THE WAVES

That wash the rocky foundations of the world. The basaltic rocks, that have become world-famous since the opening of the eighteenth century, line the northern coast of the County Antrim for four miles or more. They vary somewhat in their formation, though the honeycomb pattern predominates. In one spot only you can walk over the tops of the columns, forty thousand in number—as some have taken pains to ascertain—and how the rocks are so low that many of them are covered at high tide. There is but one triangular pillar in the whole collection; there are but three narrow necks each; those having four or eight sides bear but a small proportion to the entire mass, of which ninety-nine out of every hundred have either six, or seven sides. Each column is formed of several pieces, with their convex and concave surfaces fitted neatly together; these sections rest one upon the other, and can be lifted away without fracturing the stones in any part. The different sections of a pillar vary in length from one to four or more feet. Many of these sections have been shipped abroad as curiosities, and the guide assured me that half a dozen had gone to America. One beautifully formed stone, with a hollow in the top

A HOLLOW IN THE TOP

as smooth and regular as a shallow bowl was forwarded to a church, where, we are informed, it is now used in its natural state as a baptismal font. When your feet are slipping over the irregular surface of the causeway—no two of the columns are exactly of the same height, so that you are continually going up or down stairs, as it were,—you naturally wonder how the colossal honeycomb turned to stone; and that it stands where it does, on the bleak north coast, with the angry sea gnawing at it forever and a day. The fiction is that the Irish giant Fin McCool, now happily deceased, had adapted with his colossal rival in Scotland. They used to sit on their respective shores and call each other bad names. By and by Fin got leave of one of the Irish kings—good luck to him!—to build a highway over to Scotland. When the road was finished the Caledonian giant came over to fight Fin on his own ground; but Fin got the better of him, of course. They fasted for a season, and the Scotchman concluded to stop in Ireland and marry an Irish girl—who that has seen the Emerald Isle in her peculiar beauty is not seized with the same desire? The causeway between the two shores being no longer of service fell into disuse, and was

ULTIMATELY WASHED AWAY.

Fragments are still visible on the Island of Rathlin; and the portals of the Grand Gate, better known as Fingal's Cave, are to this hour the glory of Staffa, off the Scottish coast. The truth of the matter is almost as surprising: the columns are composed chemically of about one-half limy earth, one-quarter iron, and one-quarter clay and lime. They are of Plutonic origin, formed by a perfect fusion of the ingredients into one mass, which in cooling has crystallized into regular forms. As for myself, I could as soon believe that they were cut like biscuits!

THE WINDS MOANED

among the organ-pipes that line one of the open caves. What symphonies have been played upon the invisible stops of that weird instrument! What choruses of wintry gales, through which broke the wild shriek of the storm-bird and the despairing cries of some marmoset wrestling with watery death! Ah, Rubenstein, there was your orchestra, and your tempestuous melodies, and your lyrical tragedies, in one fearful act, and never a soul to witness the appalling splendor, though there is room for thousands among the sculptured galleries of the desolate theatre! Strike the pipes of that giant organ, and they will ring like metal. On a summer's day, when the sea is still, and the white sails go up and down the world, there is music softer than a whisper from the zephyrus that toy among the columns. While I was thinking of this, four carmen paused in the midst of their toil and kindly showed me four boxes of specimens—rock-crystals, sparkling pebbles, chalcodendrites, sea-shells and shells. Then we turned to shore, where we swung for full five minutes before we hit the right sort of a pillar to take us in. I know the emotion that stirred the hearts of Columbus and the Pilgrim Fathers when they set foot on the solid earth after a hard

STROLLING WITH THE ATLANTIC SEA.

Pardon me! I forget that Ireland was discovered long before my time. I am in the land of the festive Orangeman, but I am not going to say anything about it. I might if I chose, but for that very reason I don't choose to. I have tried to count the churches, chapels, meeting-houses, obelisks and lecture halls, and failed; and there are sects almost as numerous. We know how the blood has stained these streets. As for fanaticism, the two ends of it lap over in Belfast; but they never have been, and they never can be, tied in a love-knot, be it never so loose a one. Belfast is a cheerful and prosperous city. The people begin to lose the Celtic accent as you come north, and more the pity; higher up, most of the inhabitants might easily be mistaken for Scotch. Perhaps Belfast and the country about it please me more than any other part of the island; although the verdant beauty of Wicklow and Killarney, as well as the picturesque and rugged wilds of Galway, can

NEVER BE FORGOTTEN

by those who have had the good fortune to gaze thereon. Ireland, owing to the oppression of a foreign power, is so lonesome, so melancholy, so forlorn, that when you come upon a town of any considerable size, you wonder how they manage to keep it up. There is plenty of land there, most of it rich and mellow; but it lies idle, simply because there is no one to work it; or, worse, those who have remained at home and are willing to work, can not afford to undertake it; they haven't a penny to bless themselves with. And if they had, who would get the profit on the investment? Certainly not the poor fellow who gave his last copper for the sake of a home and a peat fire and a pot of potatoes. Ah, me! the poverty and the helplessness that darken the meagre lives of the Irish peasant! The hen, if there be a hen, lays eggs when she can afford to make shells and fill them; the cow, if there be a cow, looks out into the barnyard, and

LOVES PLAINLY

for she too is underfed. You find fragmentary, unpublished pages of Lever, Carleton, Banim, Maxwell, Griffin, Mrs. S. C. Hall, and a score of other novelists, in any cottage you enter; but for the unbounded good-humor of her children, Ireland would indeed be a sorrowful spot. As it is, I am bound to believe that there is not another people on the face of the globe with enough of the milk of human kindness, and the love of God and country, to endure what this people has endured, patiently yet proudly, through ages of misrule. Another race would have been absorbed or exterminated long ago. Their beautiful faith is at once their consolation and their glory,—that faith which, born in the Irish breast, has crossed the seas, and brought blessings to many lands, causing the desert to bloom and the wilderness to blossom as the hily. A common cause, a common sorrow, a common and undying hope have preserved the people of Ireland, and will preserve them even unto the end.—C.W. Stoddard in Ave Maria.

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THE "QUICKISH REASON"

is nearly allied to these. And Abbe Boileau being asked why he always wrote in Latin, took a pinch of snuff and answered gravely: "Why, for fear the Bishops should read me."

THE "TART IRONY"

when, observing over the door of a school room this inscription: "Let no deceiver enter here," he quietly asked: "How does the teacher go in?"

ONE OF HIS ROUGH REPARTEEES

has been put in rhyme by Peter Pindar. In Lincolnshire a lady showed our friend a grove that she wished him to commend. Quoth she: "How cool in summer this abode!" "Yes, madam," answered Johnson, "for a town!"

FOR A "STARTLING METAPHOR"

take Sydney Smith's, when he saw a little girl stoop down and stroke the shell of a turtle. "Why are you doing that, Belle?" he asked. "To please the turtle."

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