

BY THE BLARNEY STONE.

SOME FAMOUS SPOTS IN IRELAND SEEN BY THE TRAVELLER.

Noted Examples of the Tower Houses of Ancient Irish Chieftains—Castle Lisfinny at Tallow, Castle Kilcolman, and World Famous Castle Blarney.

LONDON May 1.—Throughout the entire South of Ireland, and particularly along the banks of such rivers as the Barrow, Suir, Blackwater, Bride and Lee, are found the ruins of the well-preserved remains of huge square castles, built by the heads of sept and clan at different periods during the thirteenth, fourteenth, fifteenth, and a few as late as the sixteenth, centuries.

Whatever the reasons for the same, these massive stone keeps—for they bore no resemblance to the architecturally beautiful Irish and English castles of the Elizabethan and a still more modern time—seem to have been constructed with reference to conveying intelligence from one to another, probably from signal-lights from their lofty parapets, as some which are still standing are more than 100 feet in height.

Probably three of the most interesting of these massive old structures in the south of Ireland are very near together; and can all be visited in a day's journey. They are castle Lisfinny, at the ancient town of Tallow on the river Bride, near the boundaries of counties Waterford and Cork; castle Kilcolman, on a rivulet flowing into the Awbeg, in the northern part of county Cork; and castle Blarney, in the beautiful Blarney vale, but an hour's lovely walk from the winsome city of Cork.

Castle Lisfinny stands on the side of a gentle declivity, which rises from the margin of the river Bride, with the sleepy old town of Tallow and its low, gray convent nestling in the valley on the southern side. It is supposed to have been built by the earl of Desmond, and has undergone but little change during the past hundred years.

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to die in want in the land he had more infinitely honored than any other who ever lived in it, save Shakespeare. There is but little here to remind of Spenser now. So desolate is old Kilcolman and devoid of suggestive association the region roundabout, that the pilgrim hither must perforce bring Spenser along in his heart, and build almost the entire fabric of life, home and haunts from his own loving fancy.

There is nothing more beautiful in all Ireland than Cork city, set in stone and terrace against her leafy heights, and the broadening river Lee, which, rising in the mystic depths of weird, wild Gougaun Barra, at the edge of Kerry, wanders through lovely glens and sunny vales to where the city and tide meet, and then blending with the salt water, sweeps through the most glorious and picturesque estuary in the world, down past Queenstown to the sea.

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Blarney, is the original Irish form of Blarna, means a "little field" from Blar, a field, this name having been given the place from its location almost in the center of the tiny vale-field, which was no doubt a source of rich harvests even under the rude forms of cultivation in vogue in most ancient times.

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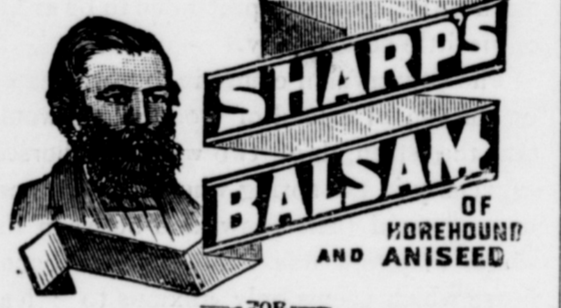
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