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K.K. Venugopal

Letter from Gen. the Right Hon. Sir Henry F. Ponsonby, G. C. B., the Queen's Private Secretary, to
The Werner Company of Chicago, 13a Cockspur Street, London.

Balmora

September 16 1894

Sir
I have laid before the
Queen your letter and the
Views of Residence in
Great Britain

Her Majesty
desired me to thank
you and after inspection
of the book of views the
Queen was much pleased

with them and commanded
me to enquire if the
Comd could keep the one you
left her for her - and also
if she could purchase 3
more copies?

Yours faithfully

Sir Henry F. Ponsonby,
The Werner Company
London

BEAUTIFUL BRITAIN

THE SCENERY AND SPLENDORS OF THE
UNITED KINGDOM, ROYAL RESIDENCES
HOMES OF PRINCES AND NOBLEMEN
PALACES, CASTLES AND STATELY HOUSES
BEAUTIES OF MOUNTAIN, LAKE AND RIVER




Photographs taken by permission of Her Majesty
the QUEEN, and by favor of the Noblemen and
Gentlemen who own many of these historic places



The Werner Company · Chicago
New York · London · Paris · Berlin
Eighteen Hundred and Ninety-five

1898

INTRODUCTION.

HE sturdy British belief that the United Kingdom is the best place in the world is supported by as strong a belief that the people of these islands have made it so. There are brighter skies and higher mountains and larger rivers and broader lakes and taller trees to be found elsewhere. We go to look at them all, travelling more persistently and with a stouter purpose to see the best of everything than the men of any other country. We come home again with a store of accumulated amazements, and tell our travellers' tales. The clearness of the gathered impressions fades very quickly, and the stories grow a little in the telling—all repeated stories, like exercised muscles, enlarge themselves in use. And then we look at the land that bore us with a new interest, noting its merits and faults by foreign measurement, laying aside the simple footrule of our younger judgment. We find that Englishmen—and Irishmen and Scots and Welsh: Queen's-men—have in them some rare simplicity that makes them of all men the best artificers at the fine old mystery of country-making. It is hand-made, all of it, the beauty of Britain. The working hours were centuries, and the sweat of toil was the blood of wars. Where the deer feed by daylight now, in the lines of ranged beeches, our fathers knew nights of armed alarm, when a break in the clouds brought blows. They were stern men who raised the stern walls of our castles, and the moat where the water-lilies gleam to-day was a ready grave for the over-bold. After the getting-by-might and the holding-by-right came the task of making better; and after that—the hardest task of all perhaps—the long keeping-in-order. The hills and the rivers, even, needed the care of man. Many successive generations must watch by the great motherland, guarding her undisturbed, while a bit of perfect country matures on her plenteous breast.

We have inherited the rich magnificence amassed, stone by stone, tree by tree, in the days of our proud forerunners—we ourselves are almost too busy, in these eager days, to add much to the beauty of Britain. A certain school of utilitarians say that we must become the slaves of the habit of haste; but the slow sweep of the country-side, and the gray towers our fathers built, keep alive in our hearts the fine old traditions. The walls that saw the childhood of our empire stand while the new ideas change and pass away. And at heart we are still the same stout race—fearing God and loving our Queen.

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