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Harriet Martineau  
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## GUIDE TO WINDERMERE.



A few years ago there was only one meaning to the word WINDERMERE. It then meant a lake lying among mountains, and so secluded that it was some distinction even for the travelled man to have seen it. Now, there is a Windermere Railway Station, and a Windermere post office and hotel; — a thriving village of Windermere and a populous locality. This implies that a great many people come to the spot; and the spot is so changed by their coming, and by other circumstances, that a new guide book is wanted; for there is much more to point out than there used to be; and what used to be pointed out now requires a wholly new description. Such new guidance and description we now propose to give.

The traveller arrives, we must suppose, by the railway from Kendal, having been dropped at the Oxenholme Junction by the London train from the south, or the Edinburgh and Carlisle train from the north.

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The railways skirt the lake district, but do not, and cannot, penetrate it: for the obvious reason that railways cannot traverse or pierce granite mountains or span broad lakes. If the time should ever come when iron roads will intersect the mountainous parts of Westmorland and Cumberland, that time is not yet; nor is it in view, — loud as have been the lamentations of some residents, as if it were to happen to-morrow. No one who has ascended Dunmail Raise, or visited the head of Coniston Lake, or gone by Kirkstone to Patterdale, will for a moment imagine that any conceivable railway will carry strangers over those passes, for generations to come. It is a great thing that steam can now convey travellers round the outskirts of the district, and up to its openings. This is now effectually done: and it is all that will be done by the steam locomotive during the lifetime of anybody yet born. The most important of the openings thus reached is that of WINDERMERE.

The mountain region of Cumberland and Westmorland has for its nucleus the cluster of tall mountains, of which Scawfell and Bowfell are the highest. *There* are the loftiest peaks and deepest valleys. These are surrounded by somewhat lower ridges and shallower vales; and these again by others, till the uplands are mere hills and the valleys scarcely sunk at all. It is into these exterior undulations that the railways penetrate; and, at the first ridge of any steepness, they must stop. It is this which decides the termination of the Windermere railroad, and which prevents the lateral railways from coming nearer than the outer base of the

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## ORREST HEAD.

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hills on the east and the coast on the west. When the traveller on foot or horseback sees certain reaches of Lake Windermere from Orrest Head, lying deep down below him, he knows he is coming near the end of the railway, which cannot yet plunge and climb as our old mail roads must do, if they exist here at all. As a general rule, lakes should be approached from the foot, that the ridges may rise, instead of sinking, before the observer's eye. But, so happy is the access to Windermere from the station, that it is hard to say that it could have been better; and that access is, not from the south to its lower end, but from the south-east to about its middle. The old coach road over Orrest Head and the railway meet at the new village of Windermere, whence the road to Bowness descends, winding, for about a mile and a half, striking the shore at a point rather more than half way up the lake, and commanding the group of mountains that cluster about its head.

Supposing that the traveller desires to see the Windermere scenery thoroughly, we shall divide our directions into portions; first exhibiting what is to be seen in the immediate neighbourhood of the Windermere Hotel, or within a moderate walk; and then describing three tours, two of which may be easily taken in a day. One mountain trip will be added, and, these being faithfully prosecuted, the tourist may be assured that he has seen all that falls within the scope of a summer visitor.

A few minutes will take him to Orrest Head, where he will see a lovely view, — a picturesque cottage roof,

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surrounded by trees, in the foreground; grey rocks cropping out of the sward on the other side of the hedges; and in front, overlapping hills, range behind range, with the grey waters of the lake lying below. The hill to the right is part of the Elleray property, so well known as the lake-home of Christopher North, and now so much improved by its present proprietor, Mr. Eastted. If the traveller should have the good fortune to obtain a ticket of leave to enter the grounds,\* his first object should be to walk up that hill at Elleray, by Mr. Eastted's new drive. All the way up, the views are exquisite: but that from the summit, — about 700 feet above the lake, is one of the finest the district can show. The whole length of Windermere extends below, with its enclosing hills and wooded islands; and towards the head, some of the highest peaks and ridges may be seen: — Coniston Old Man to the west; Bowfell and the Langdale Pikes to the northwest; Fairfield to the north, with Loughrigg lying, as a mere dark ridge, across the head of

\* A portion of the Elleray grounds are open to the public every Monday and Friday. Tickets of admission, bearing date, are issued on application to Mr. Garnett, at the Windermere Post-office, by paying a small donation, not less than one shilling, for a party of six persons, and, if above that number, the donation must be doubled. The proceeds are for the benefit of the school for the education of the poor, established by the Rev. J. A. Addison, and the sick and aged poor of Windermere, who may need assistance. — Parties will enter at the gate opposite the post-office, and proceed up the road to the right, which is the main road leading to the top of the hill, and return by the same route. All branch roads are strictly private.

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## VILLAGE OF WINDERMERE.

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Windermere; while, to the north-east, Troutbeck is disclosed, with its peaks of High Street and Hill Bell. All below are woods, with houses peeping out; on a height of the opposite shore, Wray Castle; further north, the little Brathay Chapel, set down near the mouth of the valley; and between Loughrigg and the lake, at its head, the white houses of Clappersgate, with the chateau-like mansion of Croft Lodge conspicuous above the rest. This view is a good deal like the one from the hill behind the Windermere Hotel, which is reached by a lane turning off from Orrest Head. The Elleray one is the most extensive and complete to the north: but to enjoy the other, leave will be readily obtained at the hotel.

The village of Windermere is like nothing that is to be seen any where else. The new buildings (and all are new) are of the dark grey stone of the region, and are for the most part of a mediæval style of architecture. The Rev. J. A. Addison, of Windermere, has a passion for ecclesiastical architecture; and his example has been a good deal followed. There is the little church of St. Mary, and there are the schools belonging to it, with their steep roofs of curiously-shaped slates: and there is St. Mary's Abbey, (new, in spite of its antique name), and St. Mary's Cottage. And there will be the new college of St. Mary, standing in a fine position, between the main road and the descent to the lake. This college, of which the Rev. J. A. Addison is the warden, is designed to afford a cheap and thorough education, on sound church principles, to the sons of clergymen chiefly, though not exclusively.

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It is under high patronage, ecclesiastical and local. The pupils, in a college garb of the olden time, are a curious feature in the aspect of the place; and they will be more so when they get their new buildings to live in. Judging by the plan and elevation put forth, the edifice will be in excellent taste, and a great adornment to the neighbourhood. The large house, on the hill and amidst the woods of the Elleray estate, as yet unfinished, and often mistaken for the new college, is the property of John Gandy, Esq., who has chosen a charming site for his abode; and a little further, on the same side of the road, is the pretty villa-residence of Miss Yates.

There are villas on either side the road, on almost every favourable spot, all the way to Bowness. There is to be a road past the college, leaving the present one to be called by the inevitable title of "the old road." We pass rows of lodging-houses; and then we see to the right the spot where the college is to be: and to the left Ellerthwaite, the residence of Mr. Geo. H. Gardner; and then, to the right, the cottage of Mynbeck, the residence of the Misses Watson, daughters of the late bishop of Llandaff: a common house in its aspect towards the road, but, as seen over the wall, very pretty in its garden front. The next gate on the left is the entrance to the Craig, built by Sir. Thomas Pasley, and now inhabited by W. R. Greg, Esq. Below this, the houses begin to thicken about the entrance to Bowness. Among them, a road to the left leads to one of the most charming points of view in the neighbourhood, — a hill named Biscut How, crested

with rocks, which afford as fine a station as the summit of Elleray for a view of the entire lake and its shores.

## BOWNESS

Is the port of Windermere. There the new steamboats put up; and thence go forth the greater number of fishing and pleasure boats which adorn the lake. There is a good deal of bustle in the place; and the lower parts, near the water, are very hot in summer: and the more since the building of a new lodging house in a space near the church, which used to be called the lungs of Bowness. The two great inns, however, are in airy situations, — the garden platform of Ullock's Royal Hotel overlooking the gardens that slope down to the shore; and the Crown being on a hill which commands the whole place. These inns are both extremely well managed; and it is for the traveller to say whether their charges, which are uniform, justify a complaint which has been made, (we think unreasonably as regards the Lake District in general) of high prices. During the season, which extends from May to November, the charges are two shillings for breakfast, (including meat, fish, &c.,) two shillings and sixpence for dinner; and one shilling and sixpence for tea. A private sitting-room is charged two shillings and sixpence per day. Ullock's Hotel, called Royal since the visit of Queen Adelaide in 1844, makes up between seventy and eighty beds. Close at hand is a little museum, where the birds of the district may be seen, exceedingly well stuffed and arranged by Mr. Armstrong, a waiter at the hotel. The Crown has ten private sitting rooms, and makes up

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ninety beds. Nothing can well exceed the beauty of the view from its garden seats.

The old churchyard of Bowness, with its dark yews, and the weather-worn church, long and low, is the most venerable object in the place. The chancel window of the church contains painted glass from Furness Abbey. The tomb of Bishop Watson will be found in the churchyard, near the east window. The rectory, which is hardly less venerable than the church, stands at a considerable distance from the village, and is approached through fields and a garden. The old-fashioned porch is there, of which this is said to be the last remaining instance in the whole district,—the roomy, substantial porch, with benches on each side, long enough to hold a little company of parishioners, and a round ivy-clad chimney immediately surmounting the porch. Within, there is abundant space, with little elevation;—plenty of room in the hall and parlours, with ceilings that one can touch with the hand. Almost every other noticeable edifice in Bowness is new, or at least modern; the schools, the gift of the late Mr. Bolton of Storrs Hall,—the Italian villa, called Belsfield, the property of the Baroness de Sternberg, and many others.

The visitor will first repair to the strand, to salute the waters. He will find a good quay, with boats in abundance, and several boat-houses within view. A substantial little pier is built out into the lake; and on either side is a steamboat moored during winter; and to the end these two steamers come, six times a day each, during the summer. To the right, gardens



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slope down to this little bay ; and they look gay even in winter from their profusion of evergreens, and from the ivy which clothes their walls. The church just peeps out behind the houses above. Looking over the lake, Curwen's island is just opposite. In May and early June, the woods of that island, and of all the promontories round, present a most diversified foliage, — from the golden tufts of the oak to the sombre hue of the pines, with every gradation of green between. In July and August, the woods are what some call *too green*, — massy and impenetrable, — casting deep shadows on the sward and the waters. Within the shadow on the shore stands the angler, watching the dimpling of the surface, as the fly touches it, or the fish leaps from it : and within the shadow on the water, the boat swings idly with the current ; and the student, come hither for recreation, reads or sleeps as he reclines, waiting for the cool of the afternoon. Turning to the north, the highest peaks are not seen from this strand ; but Fairfield and Loughrigg close in the head of the lake.

Turning southwards along the margin, and walking about a mile, the explorer reaches the point of the promontory, Ferry Nab, which stretches out opposite the Ferry House, — itself on the point of an opposite promontory. There can hardly be a more charming resting-place than a seat under the last trees of this projection. It is breezy here ; and the waters smack the shore cheerily. The Troutbeck hills here come into view, and the head of the lake is grander. The round house on Curwen's island is seen among the trees. The Ferry

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house, under its canopy of tall sycamores, and with its pebbly beach, is immediately opposite; and behind it rises the wooded bank which is, in light or shadow, one of the chief graces of the scene. If the sun shines upon it, it is feathered with foliage to the very ridge, and the bay beneath it is blue and lustrous. If the sun has gone down behind it, the bay is black; and every dipping bird sprinkles it with silver; and the wild duck that comes sailing out with her brood, draws behind her a pencil of white light. From this point, a view opens to the south. In the expanse of waters lies another island; and further down, on the eastern shore, a pier extends with a little tower at the end. This is Storrs: and at that pier did the guests embark when Scott went to meet Canning at Mr. Bolton's, and the fine regatta took place, (under the direction of Christopher North) which is celebrated in Lockhart's Life of Scott. This was only two years before Canning's death, and seven before that of Scott. Mr. and Mrs. Bolton are gone; and Christopher North himself has lost all his health and vigour. The more reason that the memory of that day should be preserved!

Instead of returning to his inn the way he came, the stranger may make a moderate and pleasant walk by going through Bowness on the Ambleside road, and round by Cook's House. The first noticeable abode that he will see is Rayrigg, — a rather low, rambling, grey house, standing on the grass near a little bay of the lake. It is a charming old-fashioned house, and its position has every advantage, except that it stands too low. On the high wall by the road side, immediately