

Thorough Guide Series.

SCOTLAND

PART I)

EDINBURGH, GLASGOW

AND THE

HIGHLANDS

AS FAR NORTH AS

ABERDEEN, INVERNESS, GAIRLOCH AND STORNOWAY

WITH A FULL DESCRIPTION OF

THE VARIOUS APPROACHES AND CHIEF PLACES OF INTEREST
IN THE LOWLANDS,

BY

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OF DERBYSHIRE, NORTH WALES, DEVON AND CORNWALL, ETC.

THIRTY-SEVEN MAPS AND PLANS

By J. BARTHOLOMEW, F.R.G.S.

"Where Grampians over Grampians soar,
Where "dowie dens" deep-bosom'd lie,
Where ends the long Atlantic roar
Beneath the savage hills of Skye."

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Grampians

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"Lord of the Isles" Route.

**Glasgow to Oban by the Kyles of Bute (or Loch Eck),
Loch Fyne, Inveraray, and Dalmally.**

Main Route. *Glasgow to Greenock (rail), 22 m; Dunoon (steamer), 28 m; Rothesay, 38 m; Strachur, 90 m; Inveraray, 94 m; Dalmally, (coach), 110 m; Oban (rail), 125 m.*

— **Loch Eck Route.** *Greenock to Dunoon (steamer), 6 m; Inverchapel (coach), 14 m; Locheckhead (steamer) 20 m; Strachur (coach) 25 m; Inveraray (steamer), 29 m. Total distance from Glasgow to Oban, 92 m.*

Both Routes. *Coach leaves Inveraray about 1.45 p.m., connecting at Dalmally with train due at Oban about 6.15.*

The "Lord of the Isles," one of the finest of the Clyde steamers, leaves Glasgow daily about 7.15 and Greenock (in connection with morning trains from Glasgow) about 2 hours later. It calls at Dunoon, where passengers via Craigendoran Pier may join it.

For the Loch Eck route passengers quit the "Lord of the Isles" at Dunoon and rejoin it at Strachur.

The route of the "Lord of the Isles" is the same as that of the "Columba" (p. 188), as far as the upper reach of Loch Fyne, which commences opposite Ardrishaig.

Hence the distance to Inveraray is about 20 miles, and the loch is from 1 to 1½ miles wide. The hills do not exceed 1,500 feet in height on either side, and their outline is not at all striking. The shores, however, are in places well, though not variously, wooded. Almost at the entrance of this reach of the loch a sand-bank runs out into the middle from the eastern shore. In four miles we pass *Loch Gair* ("short loch") on the left, and, about the same distance further on, the mansion of *Minard* on the same side. The towering height far away beyond the head of the loch is Ben Lui, between Tyndrum and Dalmally. At Strachur, 8 miles higher up the loch, the Loch Eck route converges.

Loch Eck Route. From Dunoon the coach takes the coast-route through *Kirn, Hunter's Quay*—leafy and luxuriant—and *Sandbank*, whence it proceeds round the head of the *Holy Loch* into the Echaig valley, whose waters connect Loch Eck with the sea. At *Inverchapel* the passengers are transferred to the little steamer "Fairy Queen," which conveys them the whole length of the loch.

Loch Eck is, in relation to its length (7 miles), the narrowest lake in Scotland. Though so near the busy scenes of the Clyde, it has a completely out-of-the-world appearance, and except when the little steamer takes its freight of passengers up and down it twice a day, its waters rest in their deep basin undisturbed.

The mountains on both sides are high, green and steep, sinking directly into the lake with little intervening space of pasture-land. A road hugs the eastern shore, passing about half-way the *Whistlefield Inn*, whence the pedestrian may

reach Ardentinnay on Loch Long in about five miles, climbing to a height of 550 feet on the way.

From the upper end of the loch, where another coach is in waiting, it is nearly five miles to *Strachur*, on Loch Fyne. The bottom of the valley is flat and cultivated, and no greater height than 200 feet is attained. The distance from the village of *Strachur* to the pier is upwards of a mile; on the way are *Strachur House* and grounds. There is a time-honoured inn at *Strachur*, and another comfortable little hostelry called "Creggans," close to the pier.

Pedestrians who do not catch the "Lord of the Isles" at *Strachur*, must walk on to *St. Catherine's* (4 m.), and thence ferry across to **Inveraray**. The road skirts Loch Fyne and presents a beautiful view of the town of **Inveraray**, with the woody, tower-crowned hill of *Duniquoich* on its right, and the bold, yet graceful, outline of *Ben Cruachan* over the gap of *Glen Aray*.

Inveraray.