

## THE CORK BLACKWATER.

This most charming river, which, by means of a few miles land portage from Cappoquin to Newcastle on the Suir, may well be made the commencement of a long cruise in Ireland, is easily reached from England through Cork, to which steamers run from London, Southampton, Plymouth, Bristol, Newport, Cardiff, and Liverpool. From Cork it is 19 miles rail to Mallow on the Blackwater, the most convenient starting point, though canoes have, we believe, come down from Kanturk station,  $13\frac{1}{2}$  miles higher. If a canoeist has taken his boat to Killarney (p. 272), it may be well worth his while, on the return journey, to try the descent from Kanturk, at any time when the Irish rivers are fairly high. A pair-oared boat will scarcely get down from Mallow without a good deal of trouble, unless the water is a little over the average height, though it could generally do so from Fermoy.

The river is fast, but nowhere dangerous, for while some of the rapids are long, deep, and boisterous, they are not of the sort in which it is easy to make a mistake; in fact, in medium water, a canoeist need never get out of his boat except at Fermoy and Clondulane weirs. He had better reconnoitre Lismore Gap, though a good canoe can generally shoot it with nothing more than a douche for the crew.

Its general course is about due E. to Cappoquin, where it meets the tide, and turning at a right angle runs due S. to the sea at Youghal. If the cruise is to end at Youghal, the boat should be taken outside of the river, when the sea is smooth enough, and landed on the beach right under the station, to avoid a long cartage through the narrow streets of the town. But, for a canoeist at least, even if he is returning to England at once, the better course is (unless he should happen to find a cargo boat in Youghal harbour bound to some convenient English port) to go back with the tide to Cappoquin, cart across to Newcastle-on-Suir, and go down the Suir to Waterford (p. 267). The 11 miles of cartage will save him transport to station at Youghal, 27 miles rail to Cork, and transport from Cork station to Penrose quay. And this last item in particular it is well worth while to be spared, for it brings one in contact with the most unpleasant set of people that the writer, in the course of a wide experience of that sort of business, has



ever encountered. At Waterford, on the contrary, the cruiser will either go straight alongside of his steamer, or can rely on the hospitality of the rowing club until she arrives.

If the Blackwater is taken as the last item in an Irish tour, the nearest point to it that can be reached by water is Limerick (p. 277), 40 miles by rail to Mallow, through Charleville.

Nature and art have done their best for this exquisite river, and made it rich in every variety of beauty, except grandeur. The scenery is not on a large scale, but fantastic rockwork, woodland wild and cultivated, verdant lawns, ruins of castles and abbeys at every turn, fast clear water, and rapids, as we have said, just enough to add a spice of excitement without real danger either to the traveller or his boat, make up an ideal cruising river.

| Miles           |  |   |
|-----------------|--|---|
| —               | Banteer Bridge                           | Close to Banteer (or Kanturk) Station, which is 3 miles S. of the town of Kanturk (Egmont Arms), the Allow from the north and the Glen from the south unite with the Blackwater. Banteer Bridge, a little more than half a mile from the station, is on the Glen, about 400 yards above the junction. |
| $\frac{1}{4}$   | Junction of the Glen with the Blackwater | As seen from the railway the country west of Mallow is not very interesting.  |
| $1\frac{3}{8}$  | St. Fursey's Castle (r)                  |   |
| $4\frac{3}{8}$  | Roskeen Bridge                           | Roskeen House (l).  |
| $9\frac{1}{4}$  | Dromaneen Castle (r)                     |   |
| $10\frac{1}{2}$ | Longfields Bridge                        |   |
| 12              | Quartern town House (r)                  |   |
| $12\frac{7}{8}$ | Wilton Railway Br.                       |   |
| $13\frac{1}{2}$ | Mallow Bridge                            | Shallow water above and below this bridge. Mallow station and the Royal Hotel (very good) are a long way from the river. Moran's Hotel. Old castle of the Desmonds (l).   |
| $18\frac{1}{8}$ | Carrig Island                            | Carrig House just above (l).  |
| $19\frac{1}{8}$ | Killawillin Bridge                       | Monanimy Castle (l), rather shallow below this bridge.  |
| $21\frac{1}{8}$ | Carrigacunna Castle (r)                  |   |
| $23\frac{5}{8}$ | Bridgtown Abbey                          | Large ruins (l) at a bend. Lovely spot.   |
| $25\frac{3}{4}$ | Convamore House (l)                      | Lord Listowell.   |
| $26\frac{1}{2}$ | Ballyhooly Castle (l)                    |   |
| $26\frac{7}{8}$ | Ballyhooly Bridge                        | Sharp rapid under this bridge.  |
| $29\frac{1}{8}$ | Cregg Castle (l)                         |   |
| 31              | Castle Hyde (l)                          |   |



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|------------------|------------------------------|---|---|
| Miles            |                              |   |   |
| 33               | Fermoy Weir                  | - | Hotels, Royal, Millard's. The weir has a deep perpendicular fall, and assistance should be got for the portage, which is terribly long and laborious for a man single-handed.   |
| 34 $\frac{7}{8}$ | Mount Rivers (l)             | - | From here to Ballyduff the scenery is comparatively tame.   |
| 36 $\frac{3}{8}$ | Clondulane Weir              | - | Portage left bank, not very difficult.  |
| 42 $\frac{1}{8}$ | Mocollop Castle (l)          |   |   |
| 44 $\frac{3}{8}$ | Ballyduff Bridge             | - | The woods of Lismore begin to come in sight ahead. Castle just below (r). Large country seats on both sides from here to Lismore. Flower Hill and Ballysaggartmore (l); Glen Bey, Ballygally, and Glencairn (r).  |
| 49 $\frac{1}{2}$ | Lismore Weir                 | - | There is an opening through this, towards the left, called Lismore Gap, which may be shot in high water. If not, the portage must be made on the right bank, and is rather a long one. On the left bank above there is a private landing where permission to leave the boat will probably be given. Hotels, Devonshire Arms, Blackwater Vale. Lismore Castle and grounds (Duke of Devonshire) are shown to the public. Cathedral. |
| 49 $\frac{5}{8}$ | Lismore Castle               | - | Very much like Warwick, but less massive. A little below Lismore high tides are perceptible.  |
| 52 $\frac{1}{4}$ | Kilbree Castle (r)           | - | At a sharp bend to the left; said to have been built by King John. In front are the grounds of Salterbridge.  |
| 53 $\frac{1}{2}$ | Cappoquin Bridge             |   | Inns middling. 11 miles from here by road to Newcastle-on-Suir (p. 267). The scenery of the tidal Blackwater is on a much larger scale and very fine.   |
| 55 $\frac{1}{8}$ | Drumroe Castle (r)           |   | Mount Rivers (l), several islands here.   |
| 57 $\frac{3}{8}$ | Dromana House and Forest (l) | - | Birthplace of the Countess of Desmond, who "lived to the age of a hundred and ten, And died of a fall from a cherry tree then."   |
| 58 $\frac{1}{4}$ | Camphire House (r)           |   | Villierstown (l).   |
| 59 $\frac{3}{8}$ | Junction of the Bride (r)    | - | The Bride is navigable up to Tullagh Bridge, about 7 miles.   |
| 59 $\frac{5}{8}$ | Strancally Castle (r)        |   | Dunmore Ferry.  |
| 61 $\frac{3}{8}$ | Coneen Ferry                 |   |   |
| 62 $\frac{7}{8}$ | Strancally Old Castle (r)    |   |   |
| 65 $\frac{3}{8}$ | Molana Abbey (r)             |   | Just above (r) is Ballinatray House.  |
| 67 $\frac{1}{4}$ | Rhyncrew Castle (r)          |   | A preceptory of the Templars.   |



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|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| Miles<br>67 $\frac{3}{4}$ | Youghal Bridge -                    | Iron. 500 feet on 5 spans. Here the river widens out into an estuary. Bear well away to the left below the bridge when the tide is falling. |
| 69 $\frac{3}{8}$          | Youghal Ferry -                     | Youghal Hotels, Green Park, Devonshire Arms, Imperial. The town is one very long street. Fine church. Myrtle Grove, Raleigh's house.        |
| 70 $\frac{3}{4}$          | Youghal sea beach under the station | Good bathing. Railway to Cork, 27 miles. High tide about 3 hours later than London Bridge.  |