

A TRIP TO EUROPE

Tenth article in the series by Miss Margaret Laundry.

The Lake District in the North west is one of England's beauty spots - between the rain drops that is. For, of the week we were there not one day did the skies fail to open at one time or another. The cottages here were stone with slate roofs, partly due to the heavy rainfall and partly because the hills were full of slate quarries. The district is ideal for a walking holiday as the lakes are small, villages dotted within several miles of each other and footpaths galore. It was necessary to learn a completely new vocabulary for small mountains were known as "fells", small lakes as "tarns", mountain streams as "forces" and so on. We made our headquarters at Ambleside and the evening of our arrival took a walk to the top of the "Pike", a fell overlooking the town and so steep that we had to go up zig zag style. Near the top we met four long haired sheep - momma, poppa and two kids with black faces. As we attempted to get close enough to make their acquaintance off they scooted, and we, not being nearly so sure footed at that steep angle decided not to keep up the chase. The evening air was fresh after the days rain and the view peaceful - to the east glossy Lake Windemere, to the west the green Ambleside Valley with a deep pass running off at an angle. The village directly at our feet was already dark cut off from the setting sun by the high fells. While the chimes of the town clock floated up to us.

In the village church yard at Grasmere is the grave of William Wordsworth and nearby the setting for his immortal "Daffodils".

One of our longest treks we took leaving the Lake District - an 8 mile hike, packs and all through the Kirkstone Pass - 3 miles zig zagging up (the double S had nothing on this), the fells on either side were treeless and very stoney with many forces careening down from great heights joining in fast flowing streams along the roadside. The sheep had a busy time trying to get a good square meal from the sparse grass. Near the top we ran into a heavy mist which completely obliterated the view, turning into a heavy rain which continued for the rest of the hike soaking us right through. After four miles, my shoes already on the verge of capsizing developed a slow leak which rapidly developed into a fast one with a squish-squash musical accompaniment at each step. We arrived at the hostel in Patterdale late

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in the afternoon, tired and wet, only to find that it was full so we had to take a bus 12 miles further to the next one. We just weren't up to walking it. However as luck would have it, on the bus we met a Canadian who had lived in England more than 15 years (and was really much more English than Canadian) who most graciously disregarded our drowned rat appearances and invited us to a delicious chicken dinner at his hotel that evening. Talk about a morale builder.

Heading north to Carlisle we crossed the Scottish border to Dumfries renowned to all Scotsmen as the home of Bobby Burns. The next day we rode with a lorry driver to the Devil's Beef Tub, a deep narrow valley surrounded by high grassy hills. We got out at the top to have a look down a 1500 foot almost sheer drop down to the grazing sheep below. It was dotted with stone folds used by the shepherds to protect their flocks in winter against the heavy snow. Driving in this area was quite a slow and dangerous process for there were no fences along the roadside and sheep meandered across the road at their leisure often bringing traffic to a stand still. No amount of honking would make them change their course or move more quickly.

At 3:30 that afternoon we arrived in Edinburgh.

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MEN'S CURLING DRAW

Fri. Mar. 5th	6:45 #1	Ice Allen vs McInnis
	6:45 #2	Ice Sinkins vs Wellings
	9:00 #1	Ice J. MacDonald vs Olson
	9:00 #2	Ice Duquette vs Marsh
Sat. Mar. 6th	1:00 #1	Ice Baillie vs Farrow
	1:00 #2	Haughn vs McLeod
	3:00 #1	Ice Ladies
	4:00 #2	Ice Boudreau vs Olson
	6:45 #1	Ice Ladies
	6:45 #2	Ice Ross vs Haughn
	9:00 #1	Ice Ostling vs Olsen
	9:00 #2	Ice Craig vs J. MacDonald
Sun. Mar. 7th	1:00 #1	Ice Duquette vs Farrow
	1:00 #2	Ice Dodge vs Allen
	3:00 #1	Ice Sinkins vs McInnis
	3:00 #2	Ice Latour vs Baillie
Mon. Mar. 8th	6:45 #1	Ice
	6:45 #2	Ice A. MacDonald vs Garv
	9:00 #1	Ice Craig vs Boudreau
	9:00 #2	Ice Ostling vs J. MacDonald

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