

Murray's

HAND-BOOK
SOUTH ITALY
& NAPLES.

A

HANDBOOK FOR TRAVELLERS

IN

SOUTHERN ITALY;

BEING A

GUIDE FOR THE CONTINENTAL PORTION OF THE KINGDOM
OF THE TWO SICILIES.

WITH A TRAVELLING MAP AND PLANS.

THIRD EDITION,

ENTIRELY REVISED AND CORRECTED ON THE SPOT.



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P R E F A C E.

THIS volume is intended as a Guide to the Continental portion of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies, and that part of the Papal States which lies between Rome and the Neapolitan frontier.

The section containing the description of the Capital and its environs, has been carefully revised very recently on the spot by a friend of the Publisher, as well as the two principal Routes between Rome and Naples, the most important of all for the great majority of Travellers in Southern Italy.

Fully aware of the liability to error inseparable from a work of this kind, and of the changes which often take place in the state of the roads and of the hotels, the Publisher requests all those who use this book to favour him with corrections of any mistakes, or omissions they may detect, or with any new information by which the Handbook can be rendered more useful to his travelling countrymen.

A Handbook for Travellers in the Island of Sicily is now in the press, after many years of careful preparation.

London, Aug. 20, 1858.

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Gift of
Mrs. Frances E. Weld
June 25, 1947

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riage-road, the visitor will be able to examine the gate leading to Stabiae, constructed of massive blocks of tufa, like those on the side of Herculaneum and Nola.

We have now completed our survey of the city. In the course of our description we have had occasion to notice works of art of the highest interest in architecture, sculpture, and painting, and to record the discovery of objects which have made us familiar with the religion, the public institutions, the amusements, and the inner life of a people remarkable as much for their intelligence as for their luxury and magnificence. One thing, however, has been wanting; nothing has yet been found which will throw any light on the literature or the studies of the people. No library of papyri has been found like that of Herculaneum; no inscriptions, except dedicatory ones, have been met with, save a few lines from Ovid on the walls of the Basilica, and the name of Æschylus on a bone ticket of admission to the theatre. It is, nevertheless, impossible to believe that a city like Pompeii was destitute of libraries. Nearly three-fourths of the area yet remain to be examined, and we may hope that some long-lost literary treasure may be brought to light by future excavations.

II.

CASTELLAMMARE, SORRENTO, CAPRI, AMALFI, NOCERA, CAVA, SALERNO, PESTUM, THE LUCANIAN COAST.

CASTELLAMMARE (18,000 Inhab.—*Inns*: *Gran Bretagna*, very good; *Antica Stabia*, tolerable: they are both on the sea-shore; *Albergo Reale*, or the *Villa Boccapianola*, on the slope of the hill, indifferent, but an agreeable and cool summer residence).—Excellent donkeys, better than in any other place round Naples, can always be hired, by

the month 15 ducats, by the day 6 carlini, by the excursion to Lettere or Pimonte, &c., 4 carlini, exclusive of the buonomano to the guide. A ride to Gragnano, Quisisana, Monte Coppola, or Pozzano, costs 2 carlini. Castellammare is much frequented in summer, but is perhaps less agreeable than other places on the shores of the Bay of Naples, except for those who go there for society.

Castellammare, the chief town of a distretto of the Provincia di Napoli, is situated on the lower slopes of Monte d'Auro, an offshoot from the limestone range of Monte Sant' Angelo. It is built, for the most part, along a sheltered beach, commanding an extensive view of the Bay from Vesuvius to Misenum. The position of the town protects it from the east winds. It arose from the ruins of *Stabiae*, which was first destroyed by Sylla in the Social War, and was afterwards overwhelmed by the eruption of Vesuvius in A.D. 79. The excavations made upon the site of the ancient city have been filled up: several fragments of sculpture, some illegible papyri and paintings, and a few skeletons, were discovered by Charles III. in 1745. No excavations have since been undertaken. The high ground on the l. as the town is entered, is the position of ancient *Stabiae*, which probably extended from the sea to some distance inland, for numerous remains have been traced almost as far as Gragnano. After its destruction by Sylla, *Stabiae* ceased to be mentioned as one of the maritime cities of Campania, and the site appears to have been partially covered by the villas of the Romans, who were attracted to the spot by its mineral waters and the salubrity of the climate.

At *Stabiae* the elder Pliny lost his life, during the eruption which destroyed Pompeii. Having been unable to approach the shore at *Retina*, he landed at *Stabiae*, at the villa of his friend Pomponianus, and was so little discomposed as to fall into a deep sleep. "The court that led to his apartment," says Pliny the younger,

"being now almost filled with stones and ashes, if he had continued there any longer, it would have been impossible for him to make his way out: it was thought proper, therefore, to awaken him. He got up and went to Pomponianus and the rest of his company, who were not unconcerned enough to think of going to bed. They consulted together whether it would be most prudent to trust to the houses, which now shook from side to side with frequent and violent concussions; or fly to the open fields, where the calcined stones and cinders, though light indeed, yet fell in large showers and threatened destruction. In this distress, they resolved for the fields, as the less dangerous situation of the two; a resolution which, while the rest of the company were hurried into it by their fears, my uncle embraced upon cool and deliberate consideration. They went out then, having pillows tied upon their heads with napkins; and this was their whole defence against the storm of stones that fell around them. It was now day everywhere else, but there a deeper darkness prevailed than in the most obscure night; which, however, was in some degree dissipated by torches and other lights of various kinds. They thought proper to go down further upon the shore, to observe if they might safely put out to sea; but they found the waves still run extremely high and boisterous. There my uncle, having drunk a draught or two of cold water, threw himself down upon a cloth which was spread for him, when immediately the flames, and a strong smell of sulphur, which was the forerunner of them, dispersed the rest of the company, and obliged him to rise. He raised himself up with the assistance of two of his servants, and instantly fell down dead; suffocated, as I conjecture, by some gross and noxious vapour, having always had weak lungs, and being frequently subject to a difficulty of breathing. As soon as it was light again, which was not till the third day after this melancholy accident, his body was found entire, and without any

marks of violence upon it, exactly in the same posture that he fell, and looking more like a man asleep than dead." *Lib. vi. Ep. 16.*

The Convent of *Pozzano*, founded by Gonsalvo de Cordova in the 16th cent., occupies the site of an ancient temple of Diana. The wooden cross in front of it stands on an ancient altar, discovered in 1585. The ch. contains an image of the Madonna found in a well in the 11th cent., and held in much veneration by the peasantry of the district.

The declivities of the hill above the town are shaded by copses of chestnut trees, which afford delightful rides during the summer. In the lower outskirts of the wood lie scattered many pretty villas, the property of Prince Lieven, Baron Rothschild, and others; several of which are let to strangers for the summer. Among them, agreeably situated overlooking the town, is the Royal Casino, which stands on the site of a house erected by Charles II. of Anjou, who called it *Casa Sana*, from the salubrity of its climate. Ladislaus and his sister Joanna II. often made it their residence during the plagues of Naples. Ferdinand I., of Bourbon, modernised the edifice, and acknowledged the benefit which his health derived from this delicious residence by changing its name to *Qui-si-sana*. The grounds around are intersected with paths leading to the summit of *Monte Coppola*, a conical hill clothed with chestnut-trees, and commanding fine views of the Bay. The royal domain, embracing the extensive forest, descended to the Bourbons of Naples from the Farnese family, whose ancestor Pier Luigi purchased the fief of Castellammare for 50,000 ducats, and presented it to his son Ottavio, when the latter married Margaret, a natural daughter of Charles V.

The Castle, from which the town derived its name, was erected by Frederick II., surrounded with walls and towers by Charles I., and strengthened by additional fortifications by Alfonso I. Beatrice, the daughter of Manfred,

and sister of Constance queen of Aragon, was confined in it after the battle of Benevento; but was released by the admiral, Ruggiero di Loria, after his victory over the squadron of Charles I. in 1284, when Prince Charles, the king's son, fell into his hands. On the 23rd June, 1287, the same admiral gained a greater victory on this coast over the Angevine fleet, equipped against Sicily by the Count d'Artois, in the name of Charles II., who, though still a prisoner in Catalonia, had been proclaimed as the successor of Charles I. Castellammare was sacked in 1461 by the army of Pius II. in aid of Ferdinand of Aragon; and in 1654 by the Duc de Guise.

The Port, which is protected by a small mole with 3 or 4 fathoms of water, is secure. It contains a royal arsenal and dockyard, where the large ships of the Neapolitan navy are built. The spacious quay was constructed by the French, and enlarged by Ferdinand I.

The Bay, bounded on the N. W. by Capo Bruno, and on the S. W. by Capo d'Orlando, is deep, with a sandy beach. At a short distance from the shore off the mouth of the Sarno, is a very small rocky island, with a fort, called Revigliano.

Mineral Waters.—The mineral waters of Castellammare, which have been extolled by Galen, Pliny, and Columella, are still held in high repute by the Neapolitan physicians on account of their efficacy in rheumatic, paralytic, and gouty affections; from the facility of access from the metropolis, there is no watering-place more resorted to in the kingdom. Another circumstance connected with its climate, which gives it an advantage over most other towns in the Bay, except Sorrento, is the temperature, which is lower than that of Naples by about 8° during the day, and by 10° or 12° at night. The mineral waters flow from the base of Monte d'Auro, and are, with one exception, within a short distance of each other. Their temperature is moderate, seldom exceeding 65° Fahr.

They were analysed a few years ago by a scientific commission, consisting of Professors Sementini, Vulpes, and Cassola. To their report, and to the 'Medical Topography of Naples,' by Dr. Cox, we refer the reader for more ample details than we can give in this place. There are 12 springs:—1. *Acqua Ferrata*, a mild chalybeate, in some respects similar to that of Tunbridge Wells. It rises at the commencement of the Strada Cantieri. 2. *Acqua Rossa*, a mild chalybeate, with a small proportion of saline matter. It rises also in the Strada Cantieri. 3. *Acqua Ferrata del Pozzillo*, the strongest of the chalybeates, containing a larger proportion of iron than the waters of Töplitz, with carbonic acid gas, and a large proportion of salts. It is in repute in cases of general debility. 4. *Acqua Ferrata Nuova*, a recently discovered chalybeate of a mild character, much used for weak eyes and external application. 5. *Acqua Acidola*, one of the springs described by Pliny, under the name of *Acqua Media*, which is now given to the next. It is analogous to the waters of Spa and Pyrmont, and derives its modern name from the acid taste caused by the predominance of carbonic acid gas, with small proportions of saline matter. It is used in cal- culous complaints. It rises in a magazine in the Strada Cantieri. 6. *Acqua Media*, a saline acidulous water, with a large proportion of carbonic acid gas; it resembles a good deal that of Seltzer, but is more agreeable. It is much used in affections of the stomach and digestive organs, and externally in baths for cutaneous diseases. It rises opposite the gate of the Arsenal. 7. *Acqua della Spaccata*, resembling *Acqua Media*, but it is more saline, and emits a smell of sulphuretted hydrogen. 8. *Acqua Nuova del Muraglione*, a very useful water, having some analogy to that of Cheltenham; but containing more saline matter and carbonic acid gas. It rises under the road which leads to the convent of Pozzano. 9. *Acqua Solfureo-Ferrata*, a peculiar combination of a chalybeate and saline with a sulphureous water, with a

large proportion of carbonic acid gas. It is used both internally and externally. It issues in a garden near Acqua della Spaccata, and diffuses an odour of sulphuretted hydrogen over the whole place. 10. *Acqua Solforea del Muraglione*, analogous to that of Harrogate, but more active on account of its large proportion of saline ingredients. It is in high repute in cases of gout, visceral obstructions, and cutaneous diseases, and is celebrated among the Italians for its power of relieving obesity. It rises about 100 yards outside the town, and 50 from the sea. 11. *Acqua della Ragna*, a water containing traces of sulphuretted hydrogen and carbonic acid gas, with saline matter. It is much used in cutaneous affections; hence the name by which it is designated. 12. *Acqua della Tigna*, similar to the preceding, and used for the same class of diseases.

Many interesting and short excursions can be made by those who sojourn at Castellammare. We shall only notice a few of them:

1. *Gragnano* (10,500 Inhab.), well known for its manufactures of maccheroni and its red wine. A road 2 m. long leads to it from Castellammare.

2. *Lettere*, beautifully placed on the flanks of the mountain, 3 m. beyond Gragnano, by a bridle-road. It preserves in its name a memorial of the epithet *Lactarii*, given once to these mountains. It was formerly the seat of a bishop, but its ch. has nothing remarkable. The hill is crowned by its ruined and picturesque castle, once the stronghold of the Miroballi, which commands an extensive and lovely view of the Bay and of the plain from Nocera to the foot of Vesuvius, and the mountains of Sarno and Nola.

3. *Monte Sant' Angelo*, or *St. Angelo a tre Pizzi*, the *Mons Gaurus*, is the central group of that ridge of mountains called by the ancients *Montes Lactarii*, from the richness of their pastures and the excellence of their milk. The highest peak of the Sant' Angelo, 4722 ft. high, is usually ascended from Castellammare on mules or donkeys. The

ascent takes about 5 hrs., and only 3 the descent, which can be varied by coming down on the *Vico* side, and driving from thence to Castellammare. On reaching a high plateau, called the *Ripiano di Failo*, the path traverses a fine old beech forest, in which are the *snow-pits* that supply in part the town of Naples with ice in summer. On the summit, which is the highest point round the Bay of Naples, there is a small chapel, where water can be obtained. But before starting from Castellammare it is necessary to procure the key of the door leading to it. The magnificent view that it commands extends from Mount Circello beyond Terracina, and the Meta on the frontier of the Abruzzi to Mount Terminio, beyond Avellino, to the Alburnus E. of Pæstum, and the mountains that stretch from the Cilento and the Gulf of Policastro towards Calabria, including the whole expanse of the bays of Naples, Gaeta, and Salerno.

Many other beautiful rides, especially one leading by Gragnano, or Pimonte, to a very large and old cypress-tree, will be easily pointed out by the donkey drivers.

Castellammare is also conveniently situated as a central point from which excursions may be made along both shores of the Sorrentine promontory. For the various routes to Amalfi, see page 250. An interesting excursion may be made from Castellammare, by combining Amalfi, Salerno, and Pæstum with a visit to Sorrento. In fine weather the excursion may be pleasantly varied by returning from Salerno or Amalfi by water to the *Scariatoio*, whence Sorrento may be reached by the pedestrian in little more than 2 hrs.

The road of 9 m. from Castellammare to Sorrento is one of the finest drives in this beautiful region. It is carried boldly along the cliffs which in many places rise perpendicularly from the sea, and, like the mountains behind, are of limestone, which forms the fundamental rock of the Bay of Naples. This limestone exhibits no indications of igneous action; but in several ravines

the geologist will observe that the volcanic tufa has frequently insinuated itself. The old pathway or mule-track over the mountains between the two towns is even richer than the coast-road in natural beauty.

On leaving Castellammare the road passes below the Convent of Pozzano, and traverses the headland of Capo d'Orlando, which gives its name to the victory gained on this coast by Ruggiero di Loria, July 14, 1299, who commanded the fleet of James II., King of Aragon, against that of his brother Frederick II., King of Sicily, commanded by Federigo Doria. The Sicilian fleet was almost annihilated, and Frederick narrowly escaped being made prisoner. Some curious species of fossil fishes, of the oolitic period, are found in the limestone which forms this headland. The three rocks which are such conspicuous objects off the coast are called the Three Friars, *Li Tre Frati*.

Vico. Four m. from Castellammare, and separated by a ravine, are the small towns of *Vico* and *Equa*, forming one united *comune* under the name of *Vico Equense*, recalling the *Vicus Æquanus* of the Romans. The road traverses Vico, on a rocky eminence, surrounded by olive-groves, which produce excellent oil. It was built by Charles II. on the ruins of the ancient city which had been destroyed by the Goths, and was the favourite residence of that monarch and of other kings of Naples. The Cathedral contains the tomb of *Gaetano Filangieri*, the author of the *Scienza della Legislazione*. During the residence of Charles II. at Vico the ambassadors of Philip le Hardi arrived from France to demand the hand of the princess Clementia for his third son, Charles of Valois. The ambassadors, at the request of the Queen of France (Mary of Brabant), were accompanied by their wives, who were charged by her Majesty to examine the young princess, and ascertain if she had any personal defects, as her father, Charles II., had been lame from birth. The Queen of Naples considered this inquiry derogatory to her daughter, and endea-

voured to evade it, but at length consented to allow the princess to submit, on condition that she should be covered with a delicate robe of silk tissue. The wives of the ambassadors not appearing to be contented with this inspection, Clementia exclaimed in Latin, *Non amittam regnum Gallie pro ista intertula*, and, throwing off the robe, satisfied the ladies that she was worthy of being the wife of a French prince. She was the mother of Philip VI., who was defeated by the Black Prince at the battle of Crecy.

Beyond Vico the road crosses a deep ravine by a massive bridge on a double row of arches. Soon after, pedestrians fond of romantic scenery may send on the carriage, and follow a steep path on the l. which ascends to the village of *Albero*, and thence descending on the opposite side of the hill, and affording beautiful views of the *Piano di Sorrento*, rejoins the road near the ch. of Meta. From the bridge, leaving on the rt. the *Marina of Seiano*, a pretty village with a picturesque Martello tower, and some houses with arcades and flat roofs, the road ascends, amongst vineyards and olive plantations, the *Punta di Scutolo*. From this high point the road descends to Meta by a terrace cut along the steep side of the hill, from which we look down upon the whole

PIANO DI SORRENTO.

The *Piano di Sorrento*, on which we enter at Meta, is an irregular plain of about 3 m. in length, nearly 300 ft. above the level of the sea, and protected by an amphitheatre of hills from the E. and S. winds, to both of which nearly all the other places in the Bay of Naples are more or less exposed. It is intersected by numerous ravines or picturesque winding gorges, which are worn deep by the torrents from the neighbouring mountains, and are fre-

