



THE
LAKES OF
NORTHERN
ITALY



THE CASTLE OF SIRMIONE (LAGO DI GARDA)

THE LAKES OF
NORTHERN ITALY

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WITH THIRTY SEVEN ILLUSTRATIONS

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PREFACE

THIS volume is in no way intended to be a guide-book to the Lakes of North Italy. For this reason details as to routes to be taken by those visiting the districts described, or suggestions as to which hotels should be selected, will not be found in its pages. Its object is to supply visitors to the Lombard Lakes with a brief but, I hope, fairly comprehensive account of the chief characteristics of the beautiful places through which they will travel: the interests — scenic, artistic, and historical — of these places. To give any description which could lay claim to being exhaustive or complete of these interests would fill the pages of not one, but many volumes. I have endeavoured, therefore, to select from an almost boundless field of rich material only such information as may, perhaps, assist the casual visitor to investigate the charms of the different districts mentioned.

The portions of this volume dealing with the Lakes of Lugano, Como, Maggiore, Orta, and Iseo formed the letterpress of a previous book illustrated by Miss Ella Du Cane, and published by Messrs. Black under the title of *The Italian Lakes*. In the present volume, these portions are republished with various additions; while the remainder of the work, including the chapters devoted to the Lago di Garda, now appears for the first time.

I take this opportunity of renewing my grateful thanks to those of my Italian friends who have so kindly assisted me with information concerning local traditions and history — and I would especially mention the late Cavaliere Don Baldassare Bernasconi, whose antiquarian lore and deep researches into the history of the diocese of Como are well known to students of such matters.

I have also to thank Signor Giovanni Negri, of Brescia, for his courtesy in allowing me to reproduce as illustrations to this volume a selection from his excellent photographs of places of interest described in my text.