



**A handbook for travellers in southern Italy and Sicily; comprising the description of Naples and its environs, Pompeii, Herculaneum, Vesuvius, ... Pæstum, and Capua, the Abruzzi Volume 1**

*John Murray*

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This historic book may have numerous typos and missing text. Purchasers can usually download a free scanned copy of the original book (without typos) from the publisher. Not indexed. Not illustrated. 1892 edition. Excerpt: ...the olive-clad little island of Vivara, whose crescent-shape shows it to be an old crater, torn by some convulsion of nature from its neighbour Procida. We now approach the precipitous rock on which the Castle of Ischia guards the approach to the island, whose beautifully varied outline, clothed with luxuriant vegetation and crowned by the commanding ridge of Epomeo, presents one of the loveliest pictures it is possible to conceive. Stopping to land passengers at the town of Ischia, the steamer proceeds along the N. coast, past the Bagno d'Ischia to Casaniicciola. The Ponza steamer goes on to Forio, on the W. coast. The Island of Ischia (20,000), known to the ancients as Pithecusa, Phlegæa, and Inarime, is the largest in the vicinity of Naples, from which it is distant 20 m. Its circumference is about 20 m., exclusive of the sinuosities of the coast, its length 6 m.; its greatest breadth about 4 m. Before Vesuvius resumed its activity, in the 1st cent. of our era, Ischia was the principal site of volcanic action in South Italy. Monte Epomeo, the Epopeus of the Greeks, the Epopeus of the Latin poets, appears to have acted chiefly by lateral eruptions, for there is not a trace of lava near its summit, while several volcanic vents may be distinctly traced on its flanks and in various parts of its declivities. On the N. and W. the island slopes gradually down to the sea, and terminates in a breach, while on the S. and E. it forms abrupt and lofty precipices. A Greek colony from Chalcis and Erythrea settled here about 1100 B.C., but are said to have been afterwards compelled by constant earthquakes and volcanic agency to leave the island, and settle on the opposite coast at Cumæ. A colony established by Hiero, tyrant of Syracuse, no doubt...

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