

1 "Imperial Hotel." They were sumptuously furnished, and having our meals served in our parlor,
2 we entered upon our course on the high pressure principle. After dinner took carriage and
3 drove through the beautiful suburbs of the city; and along the left bank of the Lee, 6 miles to
4 the celebrated "Blarney Castle" erected in the 15th cent., and now a very picturesque ruin
5 covered with ivy, a large square building (forming a part of the castle) now standing 120 feet
6 high surmounted by a heavy projecting parapet supported on massive corbels of stone. The
7 walls about 10 feet thick are in remarkably good condition. At one angle of the building is a
8 circular tower containing a winding, stone stairway by which we ascended to the top of the
9 building (of course there is no roof or floors). The parapet overhanging the outer face of the
10 walls gives a broad foot path on top of the walls all round the building. The celebrated "blarney
11 stone" forms the base of part of this parapet; and rests on two of the corbels. A hole has been
12 cut through the wall opposite this stone where persons placing themselves in a horizontal
13 position face downwards, can propel themselves forward and outward slightly downward and
14 kiss the stone (which Julia did) and I didn't. After a satisfactory survey and examination of the
15 ruin, we proceeded a short distance to a new and elegant villa nearly completed for the present
16 proprietor of the Blarney Estate. Style Elizabethan, a very large and well arranged family
17 mansion. I was particularly pleased with the interior finish and its magnificent hall and
18 stairway.

19 On the second day at Cork took carriage and drove around the city, admired the architecture of
20 its public building particularly of Queens College. Left the next morning by rail for Kilarney
21 where we arrived in good condition in time for dinner.

22 May 28th. Put up at the "Royal Victoria." After lunch took carriage (with proper guide) and
23 drove through charming parks and gardens to Muckross Abbey and the Torc Waterfall. Then
24 over Lord Herberts grounds to the margin of the lake where we dismissed our carriage and took
25 to water in a four oared row boat and had a splendid view of the landscapes bordering the
26 lakes on our way back to our hotel. The next morning was Friday, and the heavens looked
27 rather inauspicious for Sky-larking, but as we had sent our trunks from Cork direct to Dublin, we
28 could not remain in Kilarney over Sunday. And requiring Saturday for the trip to Dublin, we
29 were forced to take this Friday as we found it. It looked like rain, but we started in a carriage
30 for the "Gap of Dunloe," arriving there at the cottage of the veritable Kate Kearney. I sipped a
31 little mountain dew from the hand of Kates grand daughter, and mounting our horses prepared
32 to do the celebrated Gap of Dunloe (a sort of Yosemite Valley, but not quite so much so) -about
33 5 miles in length. It commenced to rain and it did rain. We were pretty well prepared for it,
34 wrapped up in our water proof cloaks, but mine was too short, and when I dismounted, I found
35 my right boot full of water. The rain held up, however, and we embarked in a boat (we found
36 ready for us) to explore the lakes, which we did in a most thorough manner. Found our
37 carriage had driven back and around to the opposite side of the lake. We disembarked and had
38 a long & lovely ride (in a somewhat humid condition) over Lord Kenmares grounds, visiting
39 "Ross Castle," a fine old ruin. Again embarking in our boat, we visited Innisfallen Island and saw
40 the ruins of an old abbey founded by Saint Finian in A.D. 600. We then returned to our hotel,