



The Land of Stream and Tor

William Crossing

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Excerpt from The Land of Stream and Tor

In the fairest county of England, for so has Devonshire been with justice styled, surrounded by land smiling under the hand of cultivation, is situated the wild stretch of hill-country known as Dartmoor. Although wholly within the southern portion, yet there are few elevated spots in the county, or in East Cornwall, from which it is not visible, while its loftier eminences may be seen from parts of Somerset and Dorset.

If we take a map of Devon and examine it, we shall notice that northern point of Dartmoor is at Okehampton, and the southern just above Ivybridge, and measuring this distance carefully we shall find it to be rather over twenty-three miles. In this measurement included the enclosed tract of land on the north known as Okehampton Park, and which may fairly be reckoned as being a portion of the moor. The breadth of Dartmoor will be found to vary from lie miles to seventeen, but we may consider the to be Somewhat under twelve miles. These distances, however, are what the map shows us, but the pedestrian who essays to cover the Length or breadth of Dartmoor must expect to find bis walk considerably longer, owing to the conformation of the country, which consists of swelling hills, and where the rivers leave their upland birth-place for the meads below, eep valleys, with steep and rugged sides.

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