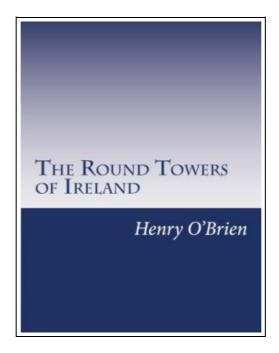
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THE ROUND TOWERS OF IRELAND (PAPERBACK)



Createspace Independent Publishing Platform, United States, 2014. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English. Brand New Book ****** Print on Demand ******. When all is dark, who would object to a ray of light, merely because of the faulty or flickering medium by which it is transmitted? And if those round towers have been hitherto a dark puzzle and a mystery, must we scare away O Brien, because he approaches with a rude and unpolished but serviceable lantern? -Fraser s Magazine for August 1835. Henry O Brien, the most daring and ingenious explorer of that recondite mystery, the origin and purpose of Irish Round Towers, was born in 1808. On both his father s and his mother s side he came of good descent, being connected with two of the oldest and most influential families in the west of Ireland. At the time of his birth that branch of the O Briens to which he belonged were settled in Kerry, where his father resided in a wild, mountainous district, known as Iveragh, forming a portion of the Marquis of Lansdowne s Irish estates. That his family were in affluent circumstances is improbable, for up to the age of twelve the boy s education seems to have been neglected in a way very uncommon with Irish people who are well off. Though I could then tolerably well express myself in English, he says, referring to this portion of his life, the train of my reflections always ran in Irish. From infancy I spoke that tongue; it was to me vernacular. I thought in Irish, I understood in Irish, and I composed in Irish; and again, I was twelve years of age before ever I saw a Testament in any language.



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