

**WILL O' THE WISP FLASHES: A
SELECTION OF STORIES, SKETCHES,
POEMS, &C., INCLUDING
LECTURES BY OLD BLOGG, AND
FELLOWS I HAVE KNOWN**

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Will o' the wisp flashes: a selection of stories, sketches, poems, &c., including lectures by Old
Blogg, and Fellows I have known by Donald Macdonald

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DONALD MACDONALD

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*

BY

DONALD MACDONALD.

"A little nonsense now and then,
Is relished by the wisest men."

DUNDEE:

PRINTED BY JOHN LENG & CO., BANK STREET.

1890.

P R E F A C E.

HAVING of late had more time at my disposal than I could devise profitable means of employing, I set about killing it by preparing the present volume for the press. The work has afforded me considerable pleasure, and has, doubtless, helped to curtail the amount of that other work which a certain obnoxious personage is said always to find for idle hands to do. If the perusal of the book affords a few pleasant half-hours to its readers I will consider that my labour has not been in vain, and will feel a thousand times repaid.

The contents are of such a varied description that the choosing of a title has been full of difficulty. If I called the book "Hotch-potch," as suggested by a friend, those who fancied they were buying a Cookery Book would consider themselves "sold," and I might get into trouble. The same would happen if I called it "Spirit Movings," and my patrons think they were getting a Religious Work. Then, if I entitled it "The Mixture," it might be taken for a quack doctor's book, and the public expect to be supplied with it *gratis*. I have called it "Will o' the Wisp Flashes," because this title means nothing in particular, and is more modest than "Lightning Flashes."

It being barely three months since I first entertained the idea of publishing this volume, it has been somewhat hurriedly put into the press, and I feel conscious that it possesses many shortcomings. Apologies are, however, in certain circumstances, like comparisons—odious—and as I cannot see that it would serve any purpose, I refrain from making an apology, or from saying anything in regard to the contents of the book, further than to state that the sketches entitled "Fellows I have Known" are reprinted, with alterations and revisals, from the *People's Friend*, and that two of the stories and a few of the poems have also seen the light before.

To those ladies and gentlemen who kindly subscribed for the book I tender my sincere thanks, and trust that, although they have been buying a "pig in a pock," they may consider their bargain not so bad after all.

D. MACDONALD.

41 COWGATE,
DUNDEE, May 1890.



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