

**TRACTS, LEGAL AND  
HISTORICAL: WITH OTHER  
ANTIQUARIAN MATTER CHIEFLY  
RELATIVE TO SCOTLAND**

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Tracts, Legal and Historical: With Other Antiquarian Matter Chiefly Relative to Scotland by  
John Riddell

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**JOHN RIDDELL**

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**TRACTS,**  
**LEGAL AND HISTORICAL,**  
**WITH**  
**OTHER ANTIQUARIAN MATTER**  
**CHIEFLY**  
**RELATIVE TO SCOTLAND.**

**BY**  
**JOHN RIDDELL, ESQ.**  
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## PREFACE.

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THE following detached pieces, with the incidental allusions, principally owe their origin to the same motive that influenced the Author on a former occasion—a desire to clear up certain points that admitted of illustration, and to bring forward original notices. As every antiquarian knows—amid the fable that obscures Scottish antiquities nearly as greatly as the dearth of record, there is nothing so much wanting in *every* department, as genuine and unexceptionable facts, which often, as our distinguished countryman Lord Hailes has demonstrated, are of far greater importance than the reveries of our writers, and ingenious and speculative inferences. These considerations may, perhaps, plead in favor of the Author, and atone for the motley appearance, in some degree, of his productions,—the union, possibly, of the *serpentes* with

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1820

the *avibus*—the *Delphinium in silvis*, &c.—a charge, he is well aware, that otherwise might be formidable.

There are separate causes that have, in part, called forth this publication, of a nature that exclusively apply to him, which obviously speak for themselves.

EDINBURGH, *February* 1835.



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