

**THE WEE STEEPLE'S  
GHAIST: AND OTHER  
POEMS AND SONGS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649151066

The wee steeple's ghaist: and other poems and songs by John Mitchell

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**JOHN MITCHELL**

**THE WEE STEEPLE'S  
GHAIST: AND OTHER  
POEMS AND SONGS**

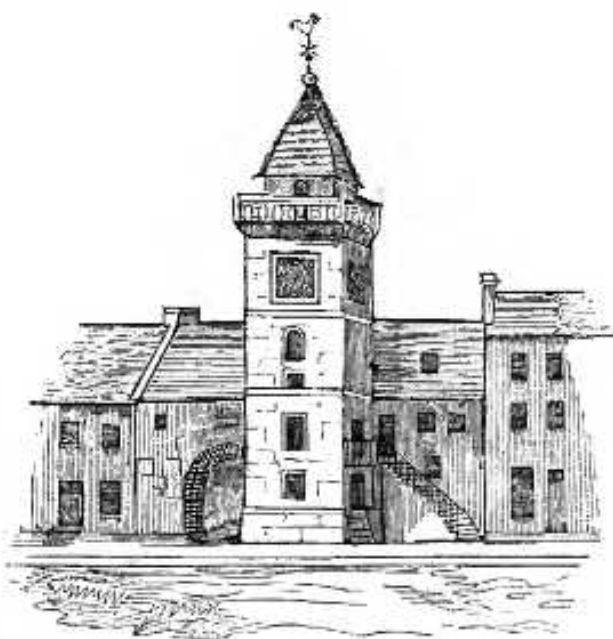


THE  
WEE STEEPLE'S GHAIST,

AND  
OTHER POEMS AND SONGS.

BY JOHN MITCHELL,

AUTHOR OF "A NIGHT ON THE BANKS OF DOON," &c.



PAISLEY:—MURRAY & STEWART.  
MDCCCL.

PR 5021  
M 75 W 4

TO

JOHN WILSON, Esq.,

PROFESSOR OF MORAL PHILOSOPHY IN THE UNIVERSITY OF  
EDINBURGH,

A NATIVE OF FAISLEY.

THIS VOLUME

IS MOST RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED

BY HIS TOWNSMAN,

THE AUTHOR.

“He was delighted to find that no change had taken place on the venerable Abbey, but on turning his eyes to a different quarter of the town, he declared that he missed, with a sigh, the WEE STEEPLE! that miracle of stunted architecture, so dear to the recollection of every genuine Paisley body. But, alas! the march of innovation had levelled the Wee Steeple with the dust, and silenced for ever the monotonous clank of its time-worn bell, ‘yept the Y’aumer Y’aums.’—*Speech of Professor Wilson, at the Jubilee dinner given to Mr. James Poddie, by his Pupils and Friends in Paisley, 11th February, 1851.*”

## PREFACE.

---

As I dislike to read a long Preface, it would be ridiculous in me to write a long one. As it is necessary, however, that something should be said in the way of prefatory matter, I shall lay before my readers the best account of St. Rollock's Chapel, so often referred to in the "Wee Steeple's Ghaist," that I have met with. It is from the pen of the late Wm. MOTHERWELL, Esq., author of "Jeanie Morrison," and many other poetical pieces of merit, and is extracted from the columns of the *Paisley Advertiser*, bearing date Sept. 20th, 1828.

"On Wednesday morning the workmen employed by Mr Macfarlane, in laying water pipes, from the Canal to his distillery in the Lonewells, unexpectedly invaded the precincts of the Dead while carrying their excavations through Castle-street. At the corner of this street they laid bare the bones of some one or two goodly personages of elder times, and shovelled forth as many skulls as might form an excellent cabinet for a phrenologist, or a meet theme whereon some itinerant Hamlet might moralize to the admiration of the groundlings. One of these "Deid powis" graces the collection of natural and artificial curiosities belonging to Mr. Robert Simm, 31, Wellmeadow. At the place where these bones were found, stood a small chapel dedicated to St. Rollock or St. Roque, to which a burial place was attached. At the dissolution of the monastery, the chapel was allowed to fall into disrepair, and it and the kirkyaird appear, from markings in the Town Records, to have been set, from year to year, to tenants, at a rent varying from three to six pund Scots. About the year 1612, it was agreed by the Baillies and Council, that St. Rollock's kirk should be taken down, and the "stones, timber, and sclait thereof, bestowit upon building ans Hospitall." This was done, and out of the materials of St. Roque's kirk or chapel rose



the Alms House or Hospital for "sax pair men," which stood at the West Port. The steeple of which (vulgarly called the *Wee Steeple*,) was unadvisedly swept away in the first ebullition of some extraordinary march of mind movement among the members of the Town Council. But it is easier knocking down an old steeple than building a new one, as the present humbled crest of St. George's church to this day can testify. At the same corner of Castle-street stood an ancient Cross, which also fell a victim to local improvement. Of the demolition of this Cross, Semple, in his *Continuation of Crawford*, speaks, but of the kirk and kirkyaird in that part of the town, he appears to have been quite ignorant. Indeed, so entirely had its memory perished, that even tradition had transmogrified St. Rollock's kirkyaird into "Sandie Rock's kailyaird." The bones of the dead in that part of the town seem to have fattened the earth amazingly. The little gardens behind the houses there are quite exuberant of fruits and flowers, and in that of Mr. Robert Simm we saw with our own eyes, some gigantic hollyhocks, the shortest of which was 9 feet odd inches, and the tallest 12 feet 3 inches in height."

A number of the smaller pieces which appear in this volume have, by the kindness of Mr. HAY, a gentleman to whose good taste I have, in more than one instance, been indebted, been allowed to appear in the "Poets' Corner" of the *Paisley Advertiser*, and, of course, must have been read by many of my townsmen. With regard to the rest of the work, I beg my readers to recollect what I said in the preface to a former volume: that my highest ambition was to be reckoned respectable among the minor bards of my native land, and if I attain that, to me enviable distinction, I may proudly say that my labour has not been in vain.

PAISLEY, *September*, 1840.

## CONTENTS.

---

	Page
The Wee Steeple's Ghaist, - - - - -	1
Ode to the Memory of Burns, on his Anniversary, 1839,	51
Ode to the Memory of Burns, on his Anniversary, 1840,	56
Wallace's Grave, - - - - -	60
Youth, - - - - -	62
Beneath Old Ocean's Waves,	64
There are Days, - - - - -	65
Rest! Lady, Rest! - - - - -	66
The Thistle, - - - - -	67
The Scottish Emigrant's Song,	68
Address to Bruce, - - - - -	69
The Vales of Braemar, - - - - -	70
My ain Fireside, - - - - -	72
A Thunder Storm by Night,	73
O! trim to me my light Canoe,	74
Were I on the heathy hills,	75
The Land of our Fathers, - - - - -	77
Experience, - - - - -	78
Beauty, - - - - -	79
They tell me there are brighter skies,	81
The Past, - - - - -	82
To the Evening Star,	84
O! dool on the day I was born,	85
The Sea! the Sky! - - - - -	86
To the Rainbow, - - - - -	87
Reason v. Hope, - - - - -	89
O! were I on the wide, wide sea,	90
O! waft me to the fairy clime,	91
Lines on M. Gaudin's New Light,	92
I twined a wreath, - - - - -	93
The Fairy King, - - - - -	94
Ye're far frae hame, - - - - -	96
Zephyr and the Rosebud, - - - - -	98
Will I ne'er see my Jamie again?	99
O! give me the Ear, - - - - -	100
O! bring to me my lyre, - - - - -	101
A Tee-total Song, - - - - -	102
O! sweetly sings the Mellow Thrush,	106
Gang hame to your ingles, - - - - -	107
The love-sick maid, - - - - -	109
Address to April, - - - - -	110

	Page
The rosy eye of Morn,	112
Whisky Punch,	113
Would you paint bonny Scotland,	115
The parting hour!	116
He led me where the burnie rows,	117
Ae bonny een,	118
A-down you glen a rose tree grows,	120
I've seen the sun at early dawn,	121
My braw new gown,	122
Sons of a happy land,	124
The wintry wind,	125
When evening is spreading,	126
When round the hearth,	127
I filled my cup,	128
The bonny moon,	130
Lines written for Mrs. Paton's Album,	132
The joys of youth,	133
Bright eye of the morning,	134
The Future,	135
I sought the glen,	137
The rosy hours of sprightly youth,	138
Poverty,	139
Lines given to Mr. Draper, Glasgow,	141
Lines on the Opening of Stanley Dam,	ib.
Lines composed beside a grave,	144
Days of my youth,	ib.
The Tee-totaier's toddy ladle's complaint	146
Bonny Leezie Allison,	149
That smile again,	150
When to the north my steps I bend,	152
Mary o' the Dale,	154
Time sweeps along,	156
Jock's Fate,	157
On seeing a Ship sail,	159
The Drunkard's awakening,	160
Bright shines the simmer's morn,	161
The Broom and Dahlia,	163
The Mice's Petition to the Cats,	186
Bread and Cheese,	195
Lines addressed to Mr. Scotland, Gardener, Blackstone,	201
Jeanie's Smile,	202
Sympathy,	203
The Jolly old Topper,	204
To a Snow-drop,	205
Impromptu,	206
The Sisters,	207