

**EVENING HOURS:  
POEMS  
AND SONGS**

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Evening hours: poems and songs by Robert Allan

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**ROBERT ALLAN**

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POEMS AND SONGS.

BY ROBERT ALLAN,

KILBARCHAN.

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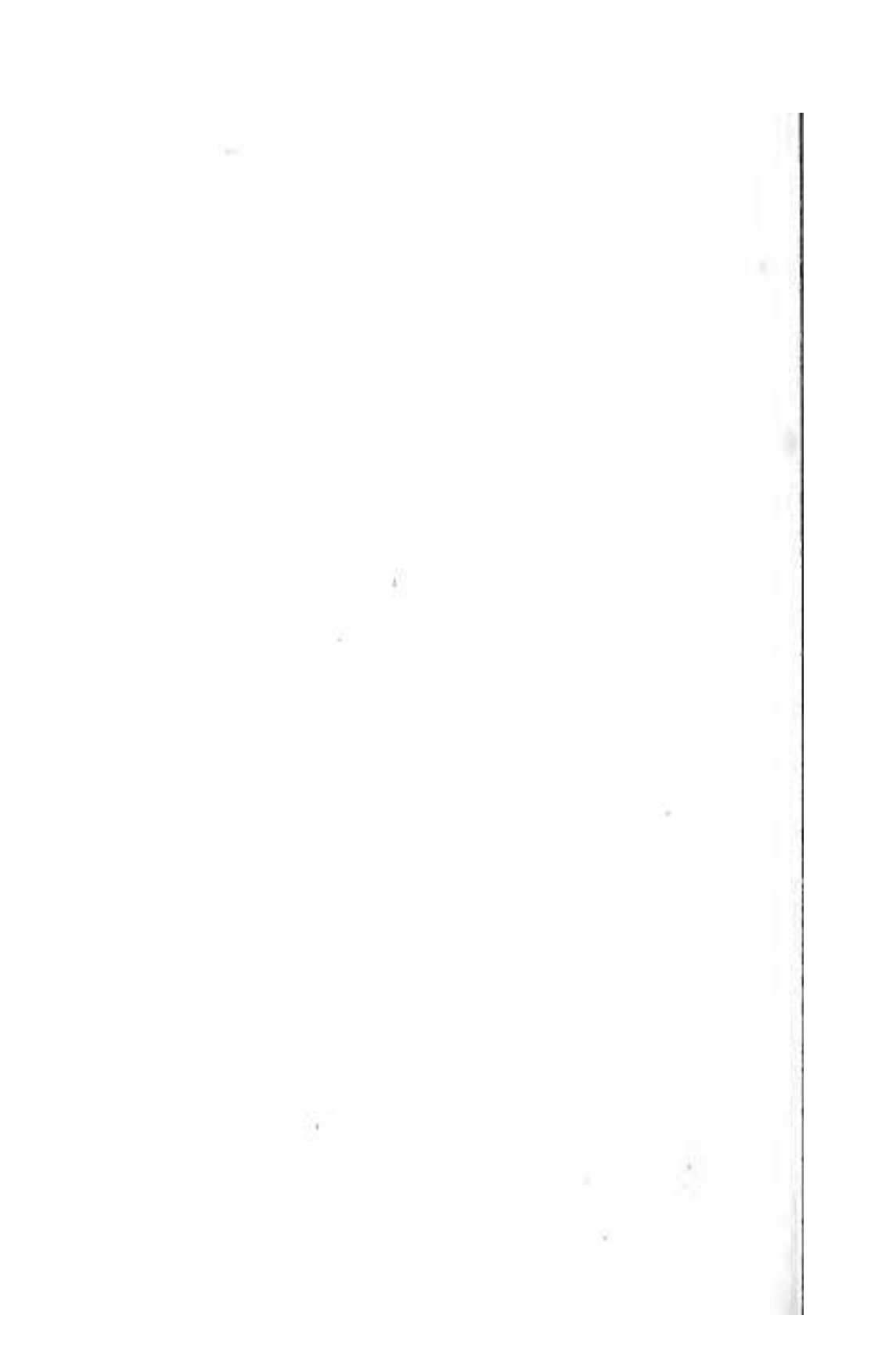
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TO  
ROBERT BURNS HARDY, ESQ.  
IN TESTIMONY OF REGARD FOR HIS DISINTERESTED  
BENEVOLENCE AND FRIENDSHIP,  
AND OF ADMIRATION FOR HIS INTELLECTUAL POWERS  
AND LITERARY ATTAINMENTS,  
THIS WORK  
IS RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED,  
BY HIS SINCERE FRIEND,  
THE AUTHOR.

816703





## PREFACE.

THE reader, who may have been glancing over popular collections of Scottish songs, will recognise a number of pieces in the present volume that he has often seen before. Indeed, some of the songs that appear in this book have long been familiar to the public; and, seeing that this is the case, it would be affectation to deny, that the author has a sort of pride in gathering them together in a book, which is the first, and in all likelihood may be the last, that shall come into the world under his care. He deems it a duty that he owes to himself—seeing that he has got the length of publishing a volume—to adopt those pieces of his which had been floating about unacknowledged; and if they deserve either praise or blame, the one or the other may be awarded, without the fear of mistaking the author, or perhaps the perpetrator.

Others, again, may observe a similarity of feeling, sentiment, and idea, pervading many of the pieces. To offer

an apology for this would be to insult the reader; for if the good and the beautiful in Nature, and in everything, deserve to be spoken of in the very best of terms, a repetition of the spirit of humanity that would speak well of all good things can scarcely be deemed offensive. But, if apology were required, the fact that the volume embraces the little poetical productions of a long series of years, spent in a country village, and in the retirements from a laborious occupation—that of the loom—would perhaps be sufficient to excuse, with those who make literature a profession, anything like a repetition of thought or expression that may show itself in the book.

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