

**THE RAID OF
ALBYN, A
HISTORIC POEM**

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The Raid of Albyn, a Historic Poem by William D. Campbell & Donald Campbell

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WILLIAM D. CAMPBELL & DONALD CAMPBELL

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"The Kilted Man and the Old Man" - from "The Kilted Man and the Old Man" - from "The Kilted Man and the Old Man"

THE RAID OF ALBYN,

A HISTORIC POEM.

BY

WILLIAM D. CAMPBELL.

WITH INTRODUCTION, NOTES, AND ADDENDA,

BY HIS FATHER,

DONALD CAMPBELL.

Printed and Published by

WILLIAM MACKENZIE, GLASGOW, EDINBURGH, AND LONDON.

1854.

DEDICATION.

TO those GENTLEMEN of the PERIODICAL and NEWS-PAPER PRESS of GREAT BRITAIN and IRELAND, who can as little countenance a violation of the rights of property in the persons of the millions as of the thousands—who cannot conceive any means whereby a people can be deprived of any of their inherent and national rights, excepting by conquest, or by a legislative enactment sanctioned by themselves—who cannot see how the desolation of districts, and the expatriation of their inhabitants, can contribute to the prosperity of a country, or the welfare of a people;—and who, therefore, desire to preserve the Gael of Scotland and Ireland to their country, so long as either kingdom contains land in an ill-cultivated or waste state, on which they may be profitably employed and comfortably subsisted, "THE RAID OF ALBYN," written for and devoted to that object, is respectfully dedicated by

THE AUTHORS.

PREFACE.

IN submitting the following pages to the public, I have not lost sight of the great difficulty of securing for them the careful consideration I desire. The changes have so often been rung of late on the indolent and old world character of the Highlanders, that we are led to consider the high position attained by many of them in our own favorite walks, as some curious anomaly, rather than as contradictory of the popular clamour. That we may set a just value, however, upon the impressions now current about our northern neighbours, it is sufficient to know that they are derived from the creatures of those who have insulted humanity, by placing sheep, and others of the brute creation, in the position nature designed for man. This at once affords a key to the motives of those shameless detractors, who, under the shadow of the national apathy resulting from their misrepresentations, are annually exporting ship loads of her Majesty's truest subjects. The present position of the Highlanders who are yet left, is simply this:—

The bulk of the people hold crofts, at will, from absentee

proprietors, which crofts are under the supervision of factors, grieves, bailiffs, ground officers, and others, appointed for the purpose. It is a duty such officials owe their employers, to wring the utmost farthing out of the lands; and, in too many instances, they seem to consider it a duty they owe themselves, to create expensive and vexatious legal proceedings for their own periodical benefit. As might fairly be expected, this oppressive machinery strikes at the very root of native industry. If a crofter improves his holding, his rent is immediately raised to a ruinous extent, or he must turn out before a higher bidder. If his bothy is repaired or extended, the same result invariably attends his labour and his outlay. The consequence, of course, is, that no improvement can be effected—the people, instead of keeping pace with the age, sink into an unnatural state of sloth and inactivity; and both proprietor and tenant are necessarily reduced to ruin by degrees.

To see the last vestiges of a warlike and generous race reduced to poverty by the exactions of their own aristocracy, is of itself a very melancholy spectacle; but when their homely virtues and patriotic feelings are operated upon, to coerce a people to submit to rack-rents and spoliation, until every resource is exhausted, and they are left in utter destitution rather than seek a refuge in emigration, we cannot sufficiently reprobate such cold, calculating cruelty. Yet it is possible to carry oppression still further. Many Highland chiefs, whose social position, as the fathers of their people, places their depravity in a still more glaring light, have not only reduced their clansmen to extreme destitu-