A BOOK OF HIGHLAND MINSTRELSY

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A book of Highland minstrelsy by Mrs. D. Ogilvy

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MRS. D. OGILVY

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MRS. D. OGILVY.

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS

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R. R. MAAN.

LONDON:

G. W. NICKISSON, 215 REGENT STREET.

1846.

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It is hoped that the brief introductions severally prefixed to the following poems will be found more convenient to the reader than the scattered footnotes which would otherwise have been necessary. They have no pretension to erudition, and, unless where they are the result of personal observation, have been drawn from such authorities as are most readily accessible, and as bear most directly upon the traditions, the sentiments, and the customs of a romantic people.

The writer takes this opportunity to thank her Scottish friends for the local information so obligingly communicated, which has proved of material service.

E. A. H. O.



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THE EXILE AT CULLODEN.

Time, in its progress, has deprived even this "blasted heath" of some of its romantic desolation. Farms and fields, a dwelling-house erected since the beginning of this century, and its cheerful accompaniments, combine to give the scene a less dreary air than it wore in the earlier days of its unhappy celebrity. Drummossie Muir, where the battle was fought, is, indeed, for the greater part still under heather, but at intervals is the waving of grain on its ridges, and a carriage-road may be seen winding through its graves. Yet, girdled as it is with lofty mountains and hallowed by melancholy memories, Culloden has a gloomy grandeur which cannot but impress the visitor. Every stone may be regarded as a hero's monument, every twining tuft of heather as a wreath hung by Fame over the slumber of a warrior. Then heavily and sad will come upon the soul the thought of the terrible calamities of civil war. Brothers arrayed in fight against brothers, fathers against sons, women widowed and children orphaned by the hands of their fellow countrymen; and all this devastation and sorrow wrought in singleness of heart and loftiness of soul by those who thought so erroneously of