

**THE DRAMATIC
WRITERS
OF SCOTLAND**

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The Dramatic Writers of Scotland by Ralston Inglis

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P R E F A C E.

THE following pages are intended as an attempt towards the compilation of a Scottish Biographia Dramatica, *i.e.*, a Biographical and Bibliographical Catalogue of Scottish Authors who have written any dramatic pieces which have been either printed or acted. The editor has for some years been engaged in collecting materials for the volume now submitted to his readers; and in the preparation of several of the biographic notices, he has availed himself of communications with which he has been favoured by various friendly correspondents.

He would also specially take this opportunity of acknowledging his obligations to James Maidment, Esq., advocate, Edinburgh; W. H. Logan, Esq., banker, Berwick-on-Tweed; and Alexander Gardyne, Esq., Hackney, London. These gentlemen have kindly favoured him with information relative to many curious and rare pieces which are in their own extensive collections of dramatic and poetic literature.



THE DRAMATIC WRITERS OF SCOTLAND.

AIKMAN, JAMES.—This Scottish author published three volumes of verse. 1. *Poems, chiefly Lyrical*; Edin., 12mo., 1816. 2. *The Cenotaph, a poem*; Edin., 1821. 3. *Disappointment, and other Poems*; Edin., 1826. In the first named volume are two dramatic poems: *The Druids, a dramatic ode—scene, the Banks of Carron in the time of the Romans*;—*Gilboa, or the death of Saul, a sacred drama*. A Mr James Aikman, probably the same, died in Edinburgh at an advanced age, 21st May, 1860. He was an Edinburgh bookseller, and author of an English translation of G. Buchanan's *History of Scotland*.

AINSLIE, SIR WHITELOW, M.D.—Son of a gentleman residing at Berrywell, near Dunse, who was land agent for Lord Douglas's Berwickshire estates. He was born about 1767, and having been educated for the medical profession, appears to have afterwards proceeded to the East Indies. An elaborate work, which he published on the *Materia Medica of India*, procured him the honour of knighthood from King William IV. Sir W. Ainslie died at London, 29th April, 1837. He published one or two poems in the *Scottish Christian Herald*, and is author of two dramatic works: 1. *Pizarro, or the Peruvian Mother, a tragedy*; 1817. 2. *Clemenza, or the Orphans of Tuscany, a drama*, acted at Bath, 1st June, 1822, for the benefit of Miss Wilson. Published at Bath, 1822, and again in 1823, 8vo, London; with

alterations, additions, and lithographs. In the correspondence of Robert Burns will be found many letters addressed to Robert Ainslie, W.S., Edinburgh, elder brother of Sir W. Ainslie.

AIRD, D. M.—A native of Paisley, where he served his apprenticeship as a compositor in the printing office of Mr A. Gardner. Mr Aird has been for many years resident in London. He was one of the pioneers of cheap literature, the *London Daily Telegraph*, the first London penny daily newspaper, having been printed at his office. For some time he edited a periodical called the *Mirror*, and is author of numerous works in prose and verse. His dramatic compositions are: 1. The Love Trap, a play, 1856; 2. The Stolen Kiss, a farce; 3. The Maid of Avenel, an operatic piece. 4. Jessie of Dumblane, extracts from an operetta in two acts; 5. Life, or the Dream of a Philanthropist, a drama in three acts. The two last named pieces are printed in *Head and Heart Legacy*, by Pamphilius, 12mo, Paisley, 1861, an autobiographic work by Mr Aird.

AIRD, THOMAS.—A native of Bowden, Roxburghshire. He was educated at the schools of Bowden and Melrose, and afterwards at the University of Edinburgh. On the death of Mr James Ballantine, the friend of Sir Walter Scott, Mr Aird was appointed editor of the *Edinburgh Weekly Journal*. During several years, while he resided in Edinburgh, he was a contributor to *Blackwood's Magazine* and other periodicals. In 1835, on the recommendation of his friend, Professor Wilson, he was appointed editor of the *Dumfries Herald*, which was under his management for nearly thirty years. Mr Aird published in 1827, *Religious Characteristics*; in 1845, *The Old Bachelor in the Old Scottish Village*, a volume of tales and

sketches ; in 1852, a Memoir of D. M. Moir (Delta) of Musselburgh ; and in 1848 and 1856, editions of his collected Poetical Works. He has published several dramatic compositions : 1. Martyouffe, a tragedy, 8vo, Edin., 1826 ; 2. The Tragic Poem of Wold, in five acts ; 3. The Mother's Blessing, a drama in three acts. The two last are in his Poetical Works, 1856.

ALEXANDER, STUART.—This gentleman was at one time connected with the Inland Revenue Office in Glasgow. He died at Helensburgh, 2nd April, 1867, in the 66th year of his age. He was the author of *Saul*, a sacred drama—London and Edinburgh, 1843, 8vo.—dedicated to the late Sir Archibald Alison.

ALEXANDER, WILLIAM (Earl of Stirling.)—Born in 1580. His family possessed a small estate called Menstrie, near Stirling. He is supposed to have been educated at the University of Glasgow, and was tutor to the Earl of Argyle, whom he accompanied on his travels abroad. On his return, he devoted his attention to the study of the ancient poets, and while still a young man, published several of his poetical works. King James the First, in 1614, appointed him Master of the Requests. He also received marks of the royal favour from King Charles I., by whom he was created Viscount Stirling in 1630, and afterwards (on occasion of His Majesty's coronation at Holyrood in 1633), Earl of Stirling. King Charles shortly after his accession, made him Secretary of State for Scottish affairs, which appointment he held at the time of his death in 1640. Several of his poetical works appeared with his name, and he is author of most of the Psalms in the translation popularly known as King James's version ; Oxford, 1631,