

**SKETCHES OF
TRANENT: IN
THE OLDEN TIME**

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Sketches of Tranent: In the Olden Time by J. Sands

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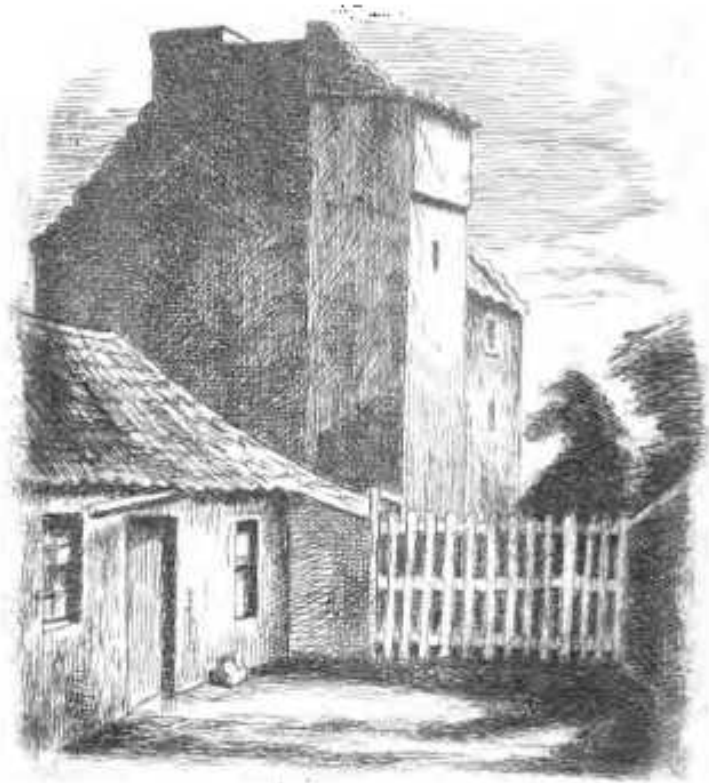
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J. SANDS

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TRANENT: IN
THE OLDEN TIME**

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In the Olden Time



Sketches of Tranent

In the Olden Time

By *J. SANDS*

Author of

'Out of the World; or, Life in St. Kilda,' &c.

*'Man's inhumanity to man
Makes countless thousands mourn.'*

BURNS.

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS BY THE AUTHOR

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EDINBURGH

1881

THE HIGHLAND MINSTREL ;

OR,

Consolation for being my own Publisher.

UPON that monstrous mud-heap called *The Mound*,
Which helps to join Edina old and new,
But spoils a very pretty piece of ground,
And in the lovely vale obstructs the view ;
And where Fine Art the blunder to increase
Has placed two buildings in the style of Greece,

There stood a Gael named ALASTAIR MACCRAW,
Who, by a quarry-shot was rendered blind,
And he, attention to his case to draw,
A barrel-organ all day long did grind ;
And many when they saw his eye-balls dim
Pitied and gave a coin,—but not to him !

For close beside him stood a crafty jade
Who as his lawful help-mate tried to look,
And whilst the Gael the weary organ played
The spurious wife the coppers quietly took ;
And grateful glances on the givers cast ;—
But this impostor was found out at last.

How many authors like that Gael we find,
Who even when the public ear they gain,
To tricks of trade and worldly cunning blind
Employ their mental organs all in vain ;
Who labour hard, but still make little of it,
For some sharp publisher takes all the profit.

It is proper to mention that the blind man in question is now attended by his genuine wife or daughter.

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David Seton, of Tranent, through ignorance, or more probably to curry favour with the weak and superstitious King, accuses his servant maid of witchcraft, and by means of torture gets her to confess that she and thirty confederates had been engaged in a plot for the destruction of his Majesty and his Danish bride, which confession eventually results in 17,000 people in Scotland being burned at the stake, and Lord Seton is created Earl of Winton—Shakespeare and Burns, as appears from their works, were acquainted with the trials of the Tranent witches—John Kincaid, the witch finder, resides in Tranent—Ministers of the Gospel, blind leaders of the blind, were the firmest believers in witchcraft, and the most merciless persecutors of the poor wretches who were suspected of that impossible

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CHAPTER I.



GENERAL VIEW.