ANCIENT SPANISH BALLADS; HISTORICAL AND ROMANTIC

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649053216

Ancient Spanish Ballads; Historical and Romantic by J. G. Lockhart

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J. G. LOCKHART

ANCIENT SPANISH BALLADS; HISTORICAL AND ROMANTIC



Ancient Spanish Ballads.

ANCIENT

SPANISH BALLADS;

Pistorical and Bomantic.

TRANSLATED, WITH AN INTRODUCTION AND NOTES,

BY

J. G. LOCKHART, Esq.

A New Woltlon, Rebised,

WITH A BIOGRAPHICAL SECTOR OF THE AUTHOR.

Hew Hork:
C. S. FRANCIS & Co., 252 BROADWAY.

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BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

OF THEN LAYS

JOHN GIBSON LOCKHART.

THE hand of death, though most conspicuous of late in the battle-field, has not been idle in the walks of science and literature. Some, indeed, of the men of note whom we have recently lost are of so great eminence that we look around among the rising generation with something like despair to find any capable of filling the gaps which have been left.

Such a one was John Gibson Lockhart, the biographer and son-in-law of Sir Walter Scott, who now lies in the same grave with him at Dryburgh. Mr. Lockhart was the second

Since the publication of the last edition of the Spanish Ballads, their brilliant author has gone to his rest. The following brief notice of him, for which we are indebted to the Times newspaper, has appeared to many of his friends so interesting and satisfactory, that the publisher has determined to prefix it to this edition.

surviving son of a Scotch clergyman, of gentle descent and old family, in the county of Lanark. He was born, 1794, in the manse of Cambusnethen, whence his father was transferred, 1796, to Glasgow, where John Lockhart was reared and educated. The inheritance of genius (as in many other instances) would appear to have come from his mother, who had some of the blood of the Erskines in her veins. His appetite for reading, even as a boy, was insatiable. Though somewhat idle as regards school study, he yet distinguished himself both at school and college, outstripping his more studious competitors, and finally obtaining, by the unanimous award of the Professors, the Snell Exhibition to Baliol College, Oxford, where he was entered, 1809, at the early age of fifteen. Dr. Jenkyns, the late Dean of Wells, was his tutor. Before leaving the university, he took honours as a first-class man. After a sojourn in Germany, sufficiently long to enable him to acquire its language and a taste for its literature, he was called to the Scottish bar in 1816; but, though endowed with perseverance and acuteness sufficient to constitute a first-rate lawyer, he wanted the gift of eloquence to enable him to shine as an advocate. As he naïvely confessed to a party of friends assembled to bid him farewell on his departure from Scotland for London, "You know as well as I, that if I had ever been able to make a speech, there would have been no cause for our present meeting." His wit, his learning, and extensive reading found, however, a ready outlet through his pen.

In 1818, Lockhart was introduced to Scott, who in 1820 evinced his esteem and affection for him, by giving him in marriage his eldest daughter. At Scott's death, in

1832, he was left sole literary executor. Many of the eleverest things in Blackwood's Magazine (established in 1817), were written by Lockhart in concert with his friends John Wilson, Captain Hamilton, Hogg, &c., and much illblood was caused among the Whigs, who, from assailants, now began to be assailed by opponents of no mean skill in fence. Party warfare then ran high in Edinburgh; much ill-blood was engendered. Unfortunately, the strife was not confined to squibs, and at least one fatal catastrophe was the result. These events left a lasting impression on Lockhart's mind, and when, in 1826, he was invited to become editor of the Quarterly Review, he quitted Edinburgh without regret, with his family. At a late period of his life he received from the friendship of the late Lord Granville Somerset, under the government of Sir Robert Peel and the Duke of Wellington, the post of Auditor of the Duchy of Lancaster.

The management of the Quarterly Review, to which he contributed many valuable papers, chiefly biographical, continued in his hands for twenty-eight years, down to 1853, when his failing health compelled him to resign the labour.

The latter years of his life were mournfully darkened by domestic calamity. The deaths in succession of his eldest boy—the pet of Sir Walter, the "Hugh Littlejohn" for whose instruction he wrote Tales of a Grandfather—of his wife, and all the other members of Sir Walter Scott's family, were followed and wound up by that of his only surviving son, under circumstances of poignant grief to a father's heart. The vial of sorrow seemed to have been emptied upon his head. With broken heart and spirits he