# THE BANKS O' CREE AND OTHER POEMS; PP.1-209

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The Banks O' Cree and Other Poems; pp.1-209 by Isa Cowan

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### ISA COWAN

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### THE BANKS O' CREE

AND

### OTHER POEMS.

BY

ISA.

SECOND EDITION, ENLARGED.

NEWTON-STEWART:

W. S. M'CREDIE, 12 VICTORIA STREET:

WM. ANDERSON, 82 VICTORIA STREET.

1886.

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140 HOPE STREET,

#### To

## Stanche, Countess Bowager of Galloway,

THESE PAGES ARE GRATEFULLY DEDICATED

BY ONE WHO RECEIVED HER SOLE EDUCATION IN THE

INFANT AND GIRLS' SCHOOLS AT

NEWTON-STEWART,

BOTH OF WHICH WERE FOUNDED, AND FOR
NEARLY FORTY YEARS ENTIRELY SUPPORTED BY HER LADYSHIP,
AND HER NOBLE AND EXCELLENT HUSBAND,
BANDOLPH, NINTH EARL OF GALLOWAY.

I. COWAN, Authoress.

NEWTON-STEWART, February, 1882.

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#### PREFACE TO FIRST EDITION.

TEE annals of literature afford many instances of genius and self-culture in cottages. Of these I venture to affirm that "Isa" is not the least remarkable. She is a native of Newton-Stewart; has received little education; was born, bred, and has always lived in the humbler walks of life. She has enriched her mind, however, by musing on her country's history, as well as by studying and repeating its poetic lore. I have read over the most of her Poems in MS., and I am strongly convinced that she has imbibed the true spirit of poetry; that her writings are full of pathos; and that her facility and felicity of expression are truly wonderful. Her Poems are the artless effusions of a native impulse and a rhyming ear. She is conscious that there must be many defects in her compositions, and makes no claim to literary finish. The marvel is to find these Poems as they are, considering the disadvantages under which the Authoress has laboured. Their composition has been the pastime and solace of a busy life; they have been produced, sometimes in the intervals of domestic duties, and at other times in the very acts of household work. I trust and believe that a generous public will give this volume a

#### PREFACE.

favourable reception; and that Gallovidians especially will hail, with pride, the rise of a true Poetess in their midst.

J. M. I.

PENNINGHAME MANSE, NEWTON-STEWART, 14th March, 1882.

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