

**BORDER LAYS:  
AND OTHER POEMS**

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Border Lays: And Other Poems by Robert Allan

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**ROBERT ALLAN**

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# BORDER LAYS

And other Poems

BY  
ROBERT ALLAN

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J. & R. PARLANE

PAISLEY

1891

AMERICAN

## Dedicatory Preface.

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To you, my friends in my native town of Jedburgh and in our fair Borderland, I send this volume. I have entitled it, "Border Lays and other Poems," because it was written for most part by the Jed, the Teviot, and the Ale, and because at least the first division of the work contains references to Border scenes and places. My lot is now cast in another part of Scotland; but with affection I revert to you, O friends, and to the lovely banks and scaurs of Jed, and to the classic Teviot, and to the exquisitely beautiful *Ain* or Ale, in whose *crum* or crook lies that loveliest of villages, *Aincrum* or Ancrum.

Some of the poems in this volume are doubtless known to you, and that many of them are humble enough I am well aware; yet it is my hope that there is at least something here and there throughout the book that may tend to improve and ennoble. To inspire the soul with love for Nature and Nature's God; to inculcate a true and candid manhood; to rouse some nobler conception of our solidarity and bounden duty to be loving co-workers for those spiritual and moral renovations which we so deeply need—this in not a few of my poems has been my heart-felt purpose.

In connection with the Scottish poems in the volume allow me a word. Just as the heather and bluebells are

indigenous to our Scottish hills and moorlands, so our Scottish poetry or pastoral and ballad song is indigenous to the simple, fervid Scottish mind and heart. The mother-tongue expresses with wondrous grace and readiness the feelings of the Scottish heart, and that its spell may be irresistibly powerful many an "Old Scottish Emigrant" can attest. Trusting this volume may be favourably received, I am, dear friends, yours faithfully,

ROBERT ALLAN.

REDHOUSE, GASSTOWN,

DUMFRIES, *1st May, 1891.*

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