

**THE STORY OF
BURNS AND
HIGHLAND MARY**

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The Story of Burns and Highland Mary by Archibald Munro

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ARCHIBALD MUNRO

**THE STORY OF
BURNS AND
HIGHLAND MARY**



MONUMENT IN WEST CHURCHYARD, GREENOCK.

THE STORY
OF
BURNS AND HIGHLAND MARY.

BY
ARCHIBALD MUNRO, M.A.



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CONTENTS.

	PAGE.
CHAPTER I.—Introductory—Details of Mary's birth-place—Removal of her family from Dunoon to Campbeltown—Residence in Campbeltown, - - -	9
„ II.—Mary's visit to Ballochantee, - - -	30
„ III.—Mary's sojourn in Loch Ranza, Arran—Her sojourn near Tarbolton, Ayrshire—Her introduction to Robert Burns, - - -	48
„ IV.—Records of their Courtship, - - -	58
„ V.—Mary's sojourn at Mauchline, - - -	79
„ VI.—Her return to the Castle of Montgomery—Ceremony of her betrothal to Burns—An aged Kilmarnock lady's reminiscence of Burns, - - -	95
„ VII.—Burns's verses on Highland Mary—Anecdote of Mary, from her nephew, - - -	107
„ VIII.—Mary's return to Campbeltown—Her return to Greenock—Her illness and death—Reminiscences of a gentleman who assisted at her funeral, - - -	121

	PAGE.
CHAPTER IX.—Mary's grave—Notice of one of her patronesses—Burns's receipt of in- telligence of his lover's death—Mrs. Campbell's references to Burns and her daughter—Burns's song, "High- land Mary, - - - - *	135
„ X.—Relics of Mary—Song, "To Mary in Heaven," - - - - -	153
„ XI.—Lord Tennyson's visit to the cottage of Burns's sister, and his tribute to her brother's genius—Mary's statue at Dunoon, - - - - -	164

BURNS AND HIGHLAND MARY.

THERE is probably no name in Scottish literature that has so affectingly touched the hearts of her fellow-countrymen as that of Mary Campbell. Though born of an obscure family, brought up in circumstances little fitted to attract attention, and credited with no achievement that invests heroism with permanent or even transient distinction, this Highland girl is now a brilliant star in the galaxy of Fame, and has become an object of unmingled and growing admiration. The lustre of Mary's name, like that of other stars, whether fixed or planetary, borrows its fascination from a luminary brighter and greater than itself. The very obscurity of her origin and early condition sets off by contrast the halo that now encircles her memory. Moralists have noted and extolled her virtues, critics have lovingly dropped their satiric shafts when commenting on the few but romantic appearances she made on the stage of Time, and poets of several generations, and of almost all countries, have exhausted their poetical resources in their efforts to express their conceptions of her

worth, but all their contributions towards the sum of her praise have taken their force and complexion from the picture which inspired genius has given of her to the world. The interest created by the association of the heroine's career with that of the gifted lover who has procured for her the honour of poetical immortality, is not, it is pleasant to know, confined to the little country that gave her birth. In England, Ireland, America, and the Colonies, and even in countries that have less in common with Great Britain, Mary's worth, ill-starred career, and premature death, have found admirers and mourners as cordial and sincere as any that Caledonia has produced.

Of the particulars of Highland Mary's life the world has got but a very meagre account, and, curiously enough, it happens that in the locality where from first to last she passed most of her days, little is known and still less recorded of her; while the town where she spent but two or three weeks of her life has, by the mere accident of her death having taken place there, almost monopolised the attention of her biographers. Official documents, as well as consistent tradition, have assigned to Dunoon, a well-known watering place on the right bank of the river Clyde, the honour of being her birth-place.

Mary Campbell was born in the year 1764 in Auchamore, or, according to its English synonym, Bigfield, a space of ground forming the south-western and south-eastern parts of Kirn and Dun-