

**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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**J. SANDS**

**SKETCHES OF  
TRANENT, 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.*'

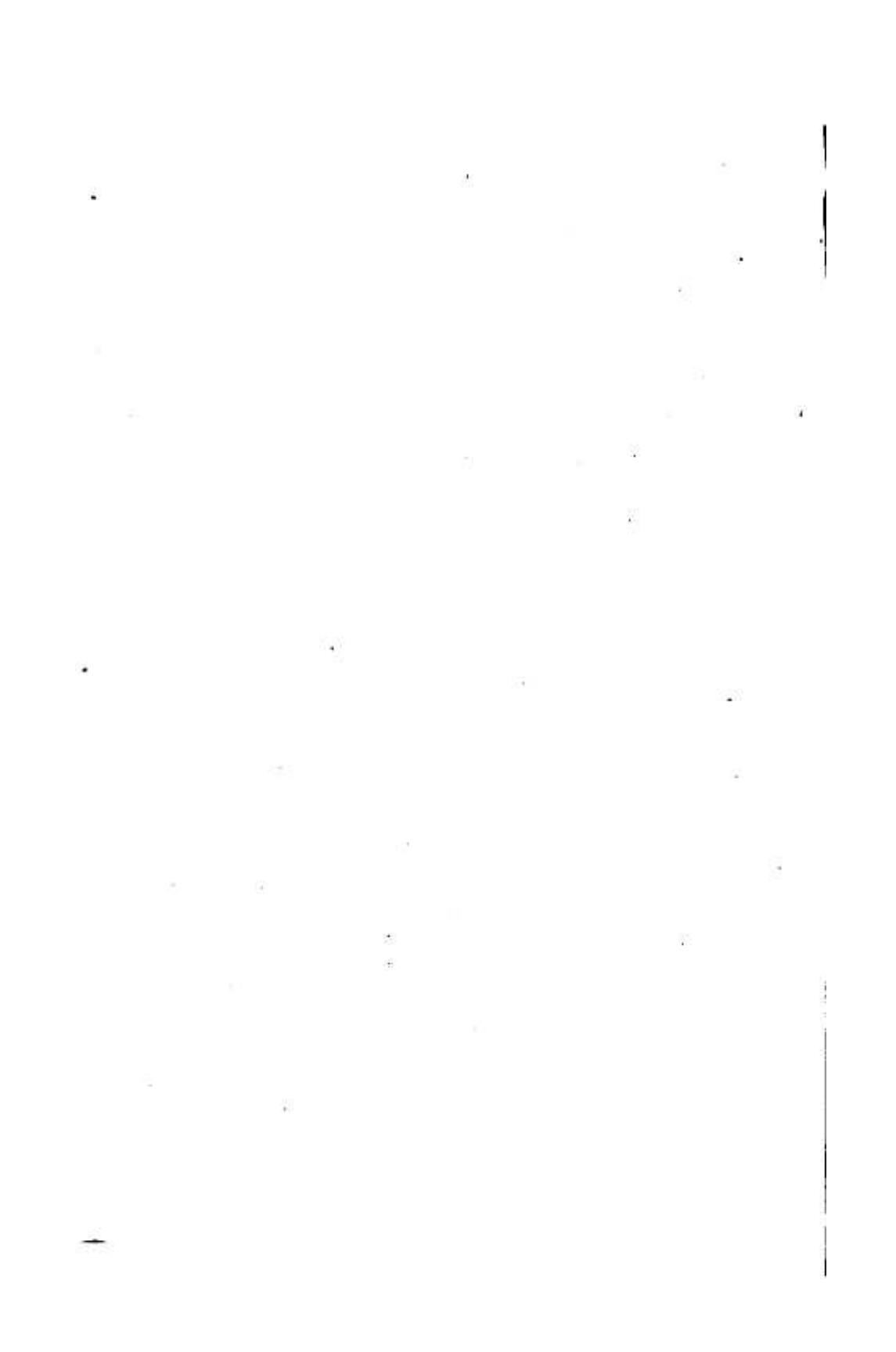
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WITH ILLUSTRATIONS BY THE AUTHOR

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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.

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

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*CHAPTER I.*



GENERAL VIEW.