

**POLITICAL AND SOCIAL
MOVEMENTS
IN DALKEITH:
FROM 1831 TO 1882**

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Political and Social Movements in Dalkeith: From 1831 to 1882 by Alexander Mitchell

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ALEXANDER MITCHELL

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BY

ALEXANDER MITCHELL.

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1882.

PREFATORY NOTE.

THE notices of political and social movements contained in this volume, extending from 1831 to 1840, appeared originally in the *Dalkeith Herald*, a journal established in 1867 to promote the cause of municipal reform, and to these are now added a number of similar jottings from 1840 to the present time, the whole forming a nearly continuous, though, of course, very imperfect record of the public and social life of Dalkeith during the last fifty years. There still happily survive a few friends and fellow-labourers who witnessed and took part in the reform movements of 1831 and 1832, and who may be expected to recur with special interest to the events of that exciting and stormy time. The local occurrences of the subsequent period will have their attractions for a gradually-increasing number of friends and fellow-citizens, while even those who are but entering on the career of busy life may be willing to learn what were the aims and aspirations of the generation that preceded their own. The survey will, I believe, show that, on political and social questions generally, public opinion in Dalkeith has kept pace with the advancing intelligence of the country, and that when circumstances have called for its collective expression, the means of doing so have seldom been wanting. I may add, that the preparation of these notes would not have been possible but for the circumstance that I had been personally engaged in the movements which they describe, and had preserved, in printed or manuscript form, the materials on which they are chiefly founded. In putting these jottings together for the

perusal of private friends, I have not hesitated to give my own contributions at greater length than would have been warrantable in a volume intended for publication. It would be affectation on my part to affirm that no feeling of self-satisfaction has mingled with more public considerations in the composition of the following pages. On the contrary, I freely own that one of the motives influencing me, and that not the least powerful, has been a desire to preserve for those who may be interested therein a record of my own opinions and work, and to connect my name with the political and social movements of half a century in the community in which my lot has been cast.

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