

**BURNS'S
"CHLORIS": A
RAMINISCENCE**

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Burns's "Chloris": A Raminiscence by James Adams

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JAMES ADAMS

**BURNS'S
"CHLORIS": A
RAMINISCENCE**

Burns's "Chloris"

A Reminiscence

BY

JAMES ADAMS, M.D.

With Facsimile of Poem "The Song of Death"

In the Poet's Handwriting

Q

GLASGOW

MORISON BROTHERS

99 BUCHANAN STREET

1893

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PREFACE.

IT has gratified me that my little contribution to "Burns Literature" in the *Glasgow Herald* has given pleasure to many individuals. The present reproduction* (with my authorisation) will be more suitable for preservation, and after reference, than the perishable columns of a daily newspaper. When I began to pen my Reminiscence, I found material so crowd upon me, that the two or three columns I contemplated would be insufficient. In like manner, when correcting the proof sheets of this reprint, I recognised the need of amplifying and corroborating, in an Appendix, various incidental references and comments in the text, besides giving, in full, the words of the songs associated with the heroine.

I have endeavoured to emphasise the reasons that make "*a people's edition*" of Burns's writings a *desideratum*—an edition from which the head of a family can "wale a portion wi' judicious care," and read aloud in the home circle; and which can be left accessible to its sons and daughters. I indulge the hope that when such an edition is produced—as it assuredly will—a

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copy will be found in the dwelling of every respectable Scottish household. With this hope I have dwelt more fully in the Appendix on considerations which should influence *true*, as well as professing admirers,—individuals who *really respect* Burns,—in denouncing, openly and persistently, the unceasing reproduction and dissemination of those writings which he so lamented, repented, and would have blotted out—that he so yearningly desired should be buried in oblivion.

With these foremost inducements to publish my Reminiscence, there has been a long-existing desire to scatter the garbage of detraction spread over Chloris by Allan Cunningham, and kept preserved by the small fry of Editorial Godfathers of Booksellers' "pot-boilers," who have fed on the foul imaginations of their great prototype—*vile pecus imitatorum*, parasitic vermin crawling on the carcass of genius. I have received assurances from many intelligent correspondents, that my effort has already borne conclusive fruits.

In deprecation of criticism that may befall, it is expedient I should explain that my exercise in writing has been restricted to dry professional and scientific monographs, ephemeral communications, and discussions in newspapers on topics of public interest at the moment. And the present work has been to wile the tedium of hours that are apt to flit with leaden wings during

"the seventies and eighties of life," with one who is well conscious he has passed the time for becoming mental effort, and is lagging superfluous on the stage, but who, through life-long habits of work, must find fitting congenial occupation—possibly useful—likely to please immediate friends, and, as he hopes, gratify some of his fellow-citizens.

JAMES ADAMS, M.D.

5 WOODSIDE CRESCENT,
GLASGOW, 3rd August 1893.

The Publishers have made a pleasing contribution to my Reminiscence, in a facsimile of Burns's handwriting of "The Song of Death,"—of which I have said so much, because of its intrinsic merit, and specially because of its interest in my eyes, from its being passed direct into my hands from the hands of Chloris sixty-four years ago. I recognise this as an admirable and truly perfect facsimile, and Chloris's docket on the back adds interest to the relic. It is the work of Messrs M'Farlane & Erskine, Lithographers, Edinburgh, whose facsimiles of important Scottish documents have been much admired by competent critics of this class of artistic reproductions.

CONTENTS.

PART I.

	PAGES
CHLORIS, HER STORY AND RELATIONS WITH BURNS, . . .	9 to 45

PART II.

POEMS OF BURNS ASSOCIATED WITH CHLORIS, . . .	46 to 101
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PART III.

BURNS MUCH MISUNDERSTOOD,	102 to 149
-------------------------------------	------------

APPENDIX.

NOTES.

A. "White Flower Love,"	Text 110, App. 150
B. Imperfect Versions of Burns's Life and Writings,	21, " 151
C. Allan Cunningham's Unveracity,	31, " 164
D. Burns's <i>National</i> Songs,	56, " 167
E. "O, that's the Lassie o' my Heart,"	97, " 169
F. "The <i>Fair Rabina</i> ,"	110, " 173
G. "The Song of Death,"	115, " 174
H. "Pot Boiler,"	120, " 178
J. Mrs Burns (Jean Armour) on Chloris,	124, " 179
K. Oaths,	130, " 179
L. Burns Biographers remonstrated with,	148, " 181

INDEX,	183 to 187
------------------	------------