

**THE WESTERN HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS  
OF SCOTLAND, SOCIALLY CONSIDERED,  
WITH REFERENCE  
TO PROPRIETORS AND PEOPLE: BEING A  
SERIES OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE  
PERIODICAL PRESS**

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The Western Highlands and Islands of Scotland, Socially Considered, with Reference to Proprietors and People: Being a Series of Contributions to the Periodical Press by Thomas Mulock

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**THOMAS MULOCK**

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BY

THOMAS MULOCK.

So I returned, and considered all the oppressions that are done under the sun: and behold the tears of such as were oppressed, and they had no comforter; and on the side of their oppressors there was power; but they had no comforter.—ECCLES. iv. 1.

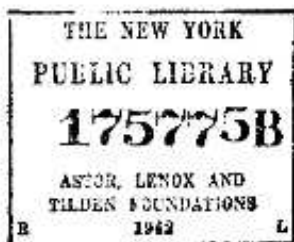
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## P R E F A C E.

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THE present publication owes its origin to a strong and general desire expressed throughout the Western Highlands and Islands, that there should be a cheap reprint, in a collective form, of the numerous Articles bearing on the social condition of the North of Scotland, which appeared from time to time in the *Inverness Advertiser*. Although the Articles in question were mainly written on the editorial spur of the moment, they were essentially the product of close local observation, and of deep after meditation—they are therefore entitled to a measure of confidence which cannot always be safely conceded to the speculations of newspaper essayists, whose range of personal enquiry is limited to their writing chamber. Before the author framed a sentence concerning Highland themes, he took an extensive survey of the state of the country—made himself familiarly acquainted with the actual condition of the people,—and endeavoured to draw a clear line of distinction between causeless complaints and justly-alleged grievances. This was not the work of a day, for the discovery of truth is a painful and difficult process, where oppression frowns upon a crushed community. Oppressors disclaim or disguise their acts of despotism, and slaves deprecate disclosure even while smarting under the sorest wrongs. At length, however, the real state of things becomes apparent to a patient investigator, and the materials for forming an impartial

judgment are accurately accumulated, so as to be fittingly placed before the public. The object of the writer has been to pursue a middle, truthful course—neither exaggerating nor extenuating social evils—but depicting with plainness, sincerity, and dispassionateness, the fearful facts which were presented to his perceptions. The upright, liberal administration of property is the true test of a nation's prosperity—for where *men oppress the poor to increase their riches*, there can be no soundness in the state of society—all is false and hollow—power has no permanence—and servitude has no valid motives for subjection.

Some Miscellaneous Articles upon topics of enduring interest have been added to this collection, and it is hoped that their introduction will not be deemed obtrusive. To Scottish readers it will be hardly necessary to apologize for the insertion of Essays touching the theological repute of *Chalmers*, or the literary renown of *Jeffrey*.



## CONTENTS.

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### PART I.

#### LORD MACDONALD'S EVICTIONS AT SOLLAS, NORTH UIST.

Letter to the Lord Advocate of Scotland, . . . . .	Page 1
Letter to Inverness Advertiser.—North Uist.—Sheriffs Colquhoun and Shaw, and Lord Macdonald's Commissioner, . . . . .	2
Letter to Lord Advocate, . . . . .	3
Letter I. The Sollas Trials—To the Right Honourable Lord Macdonald, . . . . .	4
Letter II. The Sollas Trials—To the Right Honourable Lord Macdonald, . . . . .	8
Letter III. Highland Depopulation—The Sollas Trials.—To the Right Honourable Lord Macdonald, . . . . .	14
Letter to Inverness Advertiser—Good Tidings of Lord Macdonald, . . . . .	20
Letter to Inverness Advertiser—Lord Macdonald's Estates, . . . . .	21
Lord Macdonald's Sollas Tenants, . . . . .	22

### PART II.

#### SUTHERLAND AND CAITHNESS.

Letter to Inverness Advertiser—The Duke of Sutherland and the Golspie Fishermen, . . . . .	24
Letter II. To the Inverness Advertiser—The Duke of Sutherland and the Golspie Fishermen, . . . . .	27
Letter I. To the Inverness Advertiser—The State of Sutherland Impartially Disclosed, . . . . .	30
Letter II. To the Inverness Advertiser—The State of Sutherland Impartially Disclosed, . . . . .	36
Letter to Inverness Advertiser—Juggling Mal-Administration of the Poor-Law in the Highlands, . . . . .	44
Letter to Inverness Advertiser—The Duke of Sutherland's Editorial Panegyrics, . . . . .	47
The Queen's Rumoured Visit to Sutherland—Poetry and Plain Prose, . . . . .	49
Letter to Inverness Advertiser—The Rejoicings in Sutherland, . . . . .	52
The Neglected State of the Highland Parochial Poor, . . . . .	57

## PART III.

## GLENELG AND LOCHALSH.

Roads in Glenelg—The Commissioners of Supply, . . . . .	Page 59
Letter to Inverness Advertiser—Notices of Lochalsh and Glenelg, . . . . .	60
Letter to Inverness Advertiser—The Emigration from Lochalsh, Glenelg, and South Uist, . . . . .	67
Letter to Inverness Advertiser—Reported Liberality of some Highland Proprietors, . . . . .	73

## PART IV.

## THE HIGHLAND DESTITUTION RELIEF BOARD'S OPERATIONS.

Letter to Inverness Advertiser—The Highland Destitution Relief Board: Edinburgh and Glasgow Sections, . . . . .	77
The Highland Destitution Relief Board, . . . . .	85
Present Destitution in the Hebrides—Highland Relief Board, . . . . .	88

## PART V.

## HIGHLAND ROAD-MAKING.

The Ross-shire Roads, . . . . .	93
Ross-shire Road-Making.—Tulloch, Dundonnell, and the Highland Destitution Relief Board, . . . . .	95
Road Making in Ross-shire, . . . . .	108

## PART VI.

## ARTICLES RELATIVE TO LANDLORD AND TENANT, PROTECTION AND FREE TRADE.

The Laws Affecting Agriculture, . . . . .	100
The Protectionists, . . . . .	110
Plain Truths Regarding Protection ;—Especially addressed to our Agricultural Friends, . . . . .	114
Highland Farming, High Rents, and Low Prices, . . . . .	121
Where are Farmers to Look for Relief? . . . . .	124
High Farming and Highland Farming: or Blackwood Turned Triptolemus, . . . . .	130
Mr Caird Again: or the Peel Missionary to Ireland, . . . . .	135
Tenant Right, . . . . .	139
Quack D'Israeli's Latest Nostrum, . . . . .	143
Sir Robert Peel on Protection and Rents, . . . . .	146
Sir Robert Peel on Free Trade and Rents: or the Two Voices from Tamworth, . . . . .	149
Practical Improvement of the Crofter System on the Estate of Mr Fraser of Culbokie, . . . . .	149
More Ponderings of a Perthshire Farmer—Improvement of the Cottier System, . . . . .	153
Should not the Highlanders be Scholastically Taught their own Native Language? . . . . .	155
Proposed Weekly Markets in the Highlands, . . . . .	155
Desirableness of Steam Navigation as applied to the Outer Hebrides, . . . . .	159

## PART VII.

## LITERARY ARTICLES.

The Vanished Year, 1849!	Page 162
Memoirs of the Life and Writings of Thomas Chalmers, D.D., LL.D. By his Son-in-Law, the Rev. W. Hanna, LL.D.,	172
The Late Francis Jeffrey,	179
Thomas Carlyle, the Amateur Statesman and Uninspired Prophet,	183
Thomas Carlyle's Latter-Day Prison Pamphlets,	187
The Cameronians Past and Present,	196
Lord Clarendon between Two Rival Reviews,	200
The Termination of Vice-Royalty in Ireland,	207
Capital Punishments—The Mannings and other Murderers,	212
Capital Punishments—Execution of Margaret Hamilton at Glasgow,	216
The Army Estimates—Does Great Britain require 100,000 Soldiers?	219
Prince Albert's Hobby—The Industrial Exhibition,	224
The Marriage Bill,	227
Compulsory Emigration—Strathaird, Skye. Scottish Proprietors and their Factors.—Communicated to the Northern Ensign,	228

## APPENDIX.

The Mackintosh Bequest,	237
The Mackintosh Bequest—Omitted Words of the Will,	244
The Mackintosh Bequest—From the Inverness Advertiser,	246
What can be done to Remedy the Disastrous Depreciation of Railway Pro- perty?	249
The Caledonian Railway,	252
Country Deputations to Members of the Government,	254
The Sabbath-Day's Respite from Post-Office Labour,	256
The Present State of Ireland,	259