

**THE ORPHANS OF
GLENULVA. A STORY
OF SCOTTISH LIFE**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649664412

The Orphans of Glenulva. A Story of Scottish Life by Anonymous

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

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LEAVING THE MANE.

THE
ORPHANS OF GLENULVA:

A Story of Scottish Life.

7/11

BY THE AUTHOR OF
'THE PIOUS BROTHERS,' 'THE EVERLASTING
KINGDOM,' ETC.

EDINBURGH: WILLIAM OLIPHANT AND CO.

LONDON: HAMILTON, ADAMS, AND CO.

MDCCCLXII.

250. 9. 30.

PREFACE.

THERE is much difference of opinion, even among truly Christian people, as to the propriety of mingling Fiction with Fact, in books avowedly designed to promote the best interests of the reader ; and yet, with the very highest model before our eyes, the problem should be easy of solution : for, without dwelling on the Old Testament Scriptures, where, in the childhood of the Church, picture teaching is so largely used, did not our divine Master, Jesus Christ, inculcate the very highest lessons of spiritual wisdom, by means of parables—stories

of ideal persons, or illustrations drawn from surrounding objects ?

Nor was 'the very chiefest' of our Lord's Apostles, ashamed to 'become all things to all men,' that He might 'save some ;'¹ and never surely was it more warrantable, to follow His example in this respect than at the present time, when works of fiction, for which the youthful mind will crave, are so largely made the vehicle not only of moral pollution, but of insidiously embuing the mind with erroneous views, on the most vital doctrines of the Christian religion ; and this often in so attractive a form, that the poison may have done its deadly work, ere its presence was suspected. Supposing that in a medical treatise, written avowedly for the use of students, unsound and dangerous theories were advanced, the evil would require to be met ; but who would think of doing so in the pages of an agricultural journal, or a magazine for the promotion of the fine arts, which the

¹ 1 Cor. ix. 22.

parties endangered would never read? The error must be met where it takes its rise; and thus the writer has been led, to overcome any hesitation she may ever have felt, as to the propriety of offering to the public a little book, in which the characters and incidents are to a large extent real, although linked together and illustrated by the aid of fiction; and this she does, with the fervent prayer that He in whose hands the feeblest agency may become mighty, would condescend to use it for His own glory, and the good of those for whose benefit it is chiefly designed—the youthful members of the higher and middle classes.

THE ORPHANS OF GLENULVA.

CHAPTER I.

A STILL and sultry day in the month of August had been closed by one of those gorgeous but lurid sunsets which betoken a thunder-storm; and the pastor's family, after uniting in the evening prayer, had assembled around the supper-table, in the pleasant parlour of Glenulva Manse.

Mr Gray was still in the vigour of life; and, although a student and a scholar, was no pedant; but, to a heart overflowing with Christian benevolence, he added a bright and joyous temperament, which commended the Gospel he so faithfully preached, and gave him ready access to the human heart.

Of late, however, a shade of sadness seemed to