

**A NORTH COUNTRIE  
GARLAND**

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A North Country Garland by James Maidment & Edmund Goldsmid

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**JAMES MAIDMENT & EDMUND GOLDSMID**

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A

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Bibliotheca Curiosa.

A  
NORTH COUNTRIE  
GARLAND.

EDITED BY

JAMES MAIDMENT.

AND REVISED BY

EDMUND GOLDSMID, F.R.H.S.

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PRIVATELY PRINTED, EDINBURGH.

1891.

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## INTRODUCTION.

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IN issuing this reprint of Maidment's "North Countrie Garland," I feel that no other apology can be required of me beyond quoting the words of Motherwell :

"A yet more slender volume\* appeared in the same year (1824), edited by James Maidment, Esq., and, like the Ballad Book, its impression was limited to thirty copies. . . . Small as is the volume, it makes considerable addition to our catalogue of ancient Ballads." (Minstrelsy, p. xciv.)

That some of these Ballads may shock the fastidious, I am aware ; but much that is termed "gross ribaldry" in a sanctimonious, formal, and puritanical age, has no claim to such a distinction. Our forefathers called a spade a spade ; we are more accustomed, "under a veil of snowy whiteness, to dally with wantonness in clean, nice, and well-picked phrase." *Honi soit qui mal y pense!*  
The student of our ancient manners and customs

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\*The comparison is with C. K. Sharpe's "A Ballad Book" (Bibliotheca Curiosa, vols. ii. and iii.).



does not wish to look at the past through the rose-coloured spectacles of the modern "Tartuffe;" he requires to see the times and those who lived in them, as they were, rude, unvarnished, coarse if you will; and where will he find a truer picture of habits that have died out, and of the generations that have passed away, than in these primitive and "uncontaminated" forms of ancient popular song?

EDMUND GOLDSMID.

EDINBURGH, *June 4, 1884*



## PREFACE.

THE Ballads collected in this present little volume have, with one solitary exception, been for the first time printed.

"Lord Thomas Stuart," "The Burning of Frendraught," "Child Vyet," "Bonny John Seton," and two or three others, of minor importance, had long been preserved by tradition, in Aberdeenshire, and were procured from an intelligent individual resident in that part of Scotland.

"The Jolly Hawk," from the pen of the amiable Lord Binning, was originally printed in a collection of songs ("The Charmer"), Edinburgh, 1751, 2 vols., 12mo. The uncommon occurrence of this work, and the cleverness of the song itself, was the cause of its insertion here.

The sources from which the other Ballads were obtained, have been for the most part mentioned in the notice prefixed to each song.

Whatever other merit this "North Country Garland" may have, it must be allowed to possess that of *rarity*. (Thirty copies only have been printed, chiefly for the gratification of a few of the Editor's friends—a circumstance of itself quite sufficient to give it value in the eyes of Bibliomaniacs.)

EDINBURGH, 17th February, 1824.

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