

**THE ROYAL DEE: A
DESCRIPTION OF
THE RIVER FROM
THE WELLS TO THE SEA**

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The Royal Dee: A Description of the River from the Wells to the Sea by Alex Inkson
McConnochie

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ALEX INKSON MCCONNOCHIE

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THE ROYAL DEE

THE ROYAL ADEE

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A DESCRIPTION OF THE RIVER FROM THE WELLS
TO THE SEA WRITTEN BY ALEX INKSON McCONNOCHE ..
ILLUSTRATED BY J G MURRAY A R E

WILLIAM JOLLY & SONS, ABERDEEN.
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THE ROYAL DEE.

CHAPTER I.

The Wells to the Linn.

From the bosom of the mountain,
From the silent lands of night,
Sparkles up the infant fountain,
Crystal clear and crowned with light.

THE Highlands of Scotland have no wilder scene of mountain grandeur, either in altitude or extent, than that obtained from the principal tops of the Cairngorms, the birthplace of the Royal Dee. These tops are Ben Muich Dhui, Braeriach, and Cairn Toul—three of the four highest mountains in the British Isles.

The Wells of Dee are springs on the summit of Braeriach, an enormous gravelly plateau, by far the largest of its kind in the United Kingdom. The name has been usurped by several Pools near the head of Glen Dee, between Ben Muich Dhui and Braeriach, but these lochans are gradually taking their proper position, and becoming simply the "Pools of Dee". It has been well said of the Dee that it is "born in the purple of rivers"; none other of the great streams of Scotland rises at an altitude of over four thousand feet. Mountain-born, it begins life with impetuosity, gradually decreasing its speed as it nears the North Sea, but never declining to sluggishness, as does its great rival the Spey. Braeriach became popularly known only in recent times; old maps ignored it, and writers generally passed it over in descriptions of the topography