THE PEASANT; A POEM, IN NINE CANTOS; WITH OTHER POEMS

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The peasant; a poem, in nine cantos; with other poems by John Nevay

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JOHN NEVAY

THE PEASANT; A POEM, IN NINE CANTOS; WITH OTHER POEMS



THE 256 "

PEASANT;

A POEM, IN NINE CANTOS;

WITH

OTHER POEMS.

BY

JOHN NEVAY.

Of him who walks in glory and in joy,

Pollowing the plough upon the mountain's side.

IFordstorth.

EDINBURGH:

GEORGE ABERCROMBY DOUGLAS,

19 CASTLE STREET;

LEWIS SMITH, ABERDEEN; FREDERICK SHAW, DUNDEE;

AND GEORGE SMITH, FORFAR.

1834.

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"." In the Volume there will be found some typographical, and other slips. These cannot now be properly rectified; and to offer any apology for them might be useless. Yet, when it is known that the Author, during the progress of the work through the press, resided nearly sixty miles distant from it, the reader—if a reasonable one—will pass by such slips with this gracious remark, that they are marvellously few and trivial.

ERRATA.

Page 5, line 13, for melanchoy read melancholy.

- 21, line 11, for ideat read idlot.
 - 29, and of the 10th line, put a colon.
 - 29, end of the 14th line, put a semicolon.
- 38, line 12, for hill read hill.
- 43, line 10, for moon-clouds read morn-clouds.
- 60, line 17, for dare read durst.

THE COUNTESS OF AIRLY.

LADY,

am so deeply indebted to your Ladyship's munificence, that I know not how to express my thankfulness. To say that I am, and ever will be grateful, would be but to use the commonplace language of hundreds, who are apt to forget it as soon almost as it is spoken: like the foot-print made on the sea-sand, which by the next wave is obliterated for ever. Gratitude is a debt which, by too many, is thought to be easily and soon paid. Gratitude, to a noble-minded Benefactress, is not merely in speech and writing,—how eloquent soever these may be—but mainly in virtuous action. The best way,

consequently, to be grateful for a favour received, is, to deserve the boon.

It shall be mine to teach my children to love and honour the ancient and noble Houses to which your Ladyship belongs,—and to which your truly Christian benevolence is an imperishable ornament. And, here, it is a duty incumbent on me to acknowledge to your Ladyship, and to the world, that, but for your Ladyship's unparalleled liberality, the following simple effusions had never, perhaps, come before the public eye.

To have been honoured with the attention of the Countess of Airly,—to have been patronized by a Lady of the classical, as well as chivalrous House of Drummond,—by a Lady who can claim propinquity of blood to most of the "crowned heads" in Europe,

^{*} Annabella, daughter of Lord Drummond of Stobhall, was the Royal Consort of Rosert III. and Queen of Scotland, and the mother of James the First, whence the Royal Family of Great Britain, &c.—Genealogical Memoir of the House of Drummond.

are distinctions which might gratify any poet; and they shall always be considered among the happiest incidents in the life of,

LADY,

YOUR LADYSHIP'S

Much obliged,

Ever-grateful and obedient Servant,

JOHN NEVAY.

FORFAR, 24th May 1834.

