

**THE SPIRIT OF JACOBITE  
LOYALTY: AN ESSAY TOWARD  
A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF  
"THE FORTY FIVE"**

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The Spirit of Jacobite Loyalty: An Essay toward a Better Understanding Of "The Forty Five" by  
W. G. Blaikie Murdoch

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# THE SPIRIT OF JACOBITE LOYALTY

AN ESSAY TOWARDS A BETTER  
UNDERSTANDING OF "THE FORTY-FIVE"

BY

W. G. BLAIKIE MURDOCH

"No man who has studied history, or even attended to the occurrences of everyday life, can doubt the enormous practical value of trust and faith; but as little will he be inclined to deny that this practical value has not the least relation to the reality of the objects of that trust and faith."

HUXLEY.

WILLIAM BROWN  
5 CASTLE STREET, EDINBURGH

1907

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Subscription fund

To

A. J. B. GRAHAM

IN TOKEN OF

SINCEREST FRIENDSHIP





## PREFACE

SOME account of the scope of this book will be found in the Introduction, which, owing to the fact that authorities are cited therein, has been placed after the list of these. Since writing my final pages, I have lighted upon two things which have made me feel, more strongly than ever, the need of an essay on the spirit of Jacobite loyalty. During the last few days I have been re-reading *Esmond*, a book which I had not opened for fully ten years; and I find that Thackeray describes the efforts to restore the exiled Stuarts as "conspiracies so like murder, so cowardly in the means used, so wicked in the end, that our nation has sure done well in throwing off all allegiance and fidelity to the unhappy family that could not vindicate its right except by such treachery—by such dark intrigue and base agents." An admirer of Thackeray, it grieves me to find fault with him; yet I cannot pass the above without blame. It may be said that the writer merely put those words into the mouth of one of his *dramatis personæ*, and that they were not his own sentiments. Unfortunately, however, there is reason to believe that the quoted passage was the expression of the novelist's own feelings concerning Jacobite loyalty; for, as Mr Andrew

Lang has ably pointed out, his delineation of the character of the Chevalier de St George shows how little Thackeray knew concerning the exiled Stuarts. I have also, lately, had occasion to read Mr G. K. Chesterton's *Heretics*, a book in which many of the greatest of contemporary writers are audaciously assailed, and in which the sacred names of Shelley, Pater, and Swinburne are taken in vain. With Mr Chesterton's comments on "Celts and Celtophiles" yet before me, I realise very truly that, despite the eulogies of Ernest Renan and Matthew Arnold, the Celtic race is still misunderstood by some, and that its actions in the past stand in need of defence to this day.

Some time ago a reviewer of mine affirmed that I was suffering from a complaint which he ingeniously described as "poetic inebriation." While looking forward with interest to his diagnosis in the present case (historic inebriation?), I do not purpose to attempt the disarming of criticism; yet there is one thing which I feel it advisable to say here concerning my book. It is an essay, not a history; and, eager to be convincing, and believing brevity to be of the utmost importance when writing with such an end in view, I have kept my work within the smallest possible limits. Thus, when touching on the part played by women in the Forty-five, I am but illustrating a point, and do not pretend to give a full account of Jacobite ladies. Again, in dealing with the movements, after Culloden, of Prince Charles's adherents, I

lay no claim to a complete narration of these movements, but am merely exemplifying what I have stated : that loyalty to the Stuarts, and hopes of their restoration, did not end with the suppression of the Forty-five.

I desire to express my obligations to the editor of the *Inverness Courier*, who has courteously allowed me to reprint here matter formerly included in articles which I have contributed to his paper. In the course of my researches I have received some valuable assistance from Mr Robert Fitzroy Bell, and from the Rev. Murdo Mackenzie ; and I owe a debt of gratitude to Mr J. Macbeth Forbes, who has kindly elucidated for me a point in his book, *Jacobite Gleanings*. Though he was unable to give me the information for which I asked, I am none the less grateful to Mr Arthur Symons for the letter which he wrote to me in answer to an inquiry, and it is with singular pride that I tender him my thanks. It gives me the greatest pleasure to take this opportunity of acknowledging my indebtedness to Mr Duncan Mathieson, who has befriended me as an author, and who has aided and furthered my work, to an extent which no one else has. Finally, as in the case of almost everything else I have written, I have to thank my friend Mr John M. Marshall, not only for material help he has rendered me, but for frequently constituting a sympathetic and patient audience to the tale of my labours.

W. G. B. M.

EDINBURGH, August 1907.