

LIFE OF ROBERT BURNS

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649212491

Life of Robert Burns by John Stuart Blackie

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

JOHN STUART BLACKIE

**LIFE OF
ROBERT BURNS**

"Great Writers."

EDITED BY

PROFESSOR ERIC S. ROBERTSON, M.A.

LIFE OF BURNS.

1888

LIFE
OF
ROBERT BURNS

BY
JOHN STUART BLACKIE

LONDON
WALTER SCOTT
24 WARWICK LANE, PATERNOSTER ROW
1888

208129
10. 1. 27

(All rights reserved)

CONTENTS.

CHAPTER I.

	PAGE
Mission of poets; Burns's birth and parentage; born at Doonholm, Ayrshire, 25th January 1759; farm at Mount Oliphant, 1766; at Tarbolton, 1777; education; literary culture; early loves and love songs; love of country; debating society; flax dressing at Irvine; despondency; death of his father, 1784	I

CHAPTER II.

His brother Gilbert; joint farm at Mossgiel; early struggles; Epistle to David Sillar; freemasonry; Burns and the Church; Moderates and Evangelicals; personal piety; Holy Willie; Epistle to the Rev. J. M'Math; "The Holy Fair"; politics; "Birthday Ode"; power of sarcasm; dramatic power; "The Jolly Beggars"; Mauchline loves; Bonnie Jean; Highland Mary; proposed emigration to Jamaica; poems published; first edition, Kilmarnock, 1786; introduction to Edinburgh; Dr Laurie; Dr Blacklock; Professor Dugald Stewart	29
---	----

CHAPTER III.

Journey to Edinburgh; Covington; Edinburgh society; "The Caledonian Hunt"; critical notices of his poems; Harry Erskine; the Duchess of Gordon; Miss Burnet of Monboddo; "Ode to Edinburgh"; law and lawyers in Edin-	
---	--

	PAGE
burgh ; Roslin ; Jacobitism ; monument to Fergusson ; description of Burns's personal appearance in Edinburgh, by Professor Walker and Sir Walter Scott ; Edinburgh edition of his poems, April 1787 ; tour in the Lowlands ; Robert Ainslie ; Duns ; Coldstream ; Kelso ; Jedburgh ; Miss Lindsay ; Selkirk ; Earlston ; Warkworth and Alnwick ; Sanquhar ; Mossiel and the Armour's ; short excursion to the south-west Highlands ; Loch Lomond ; Inverary ; Highland tour, August 1786 ; William Nicol ; Linlithgow ; Borrowstouness ; Stirling ; Carron ; Dunipace ; Harvieston and Miss Chalmers ; Taymouth ; Kenmore ; Aberfeldy ; Dunkeld ; Neil Gow ; Killiecrankie ; Blair Athole ; Professor Walker ; Falls of Bruar ; Lord Lynedoch ; Fall of Foyers ; Inverness ; the Findhorn ; Gordon Castle ; Nicol ; Lochaber ; Aberdeen ; Rev. John Skinner ; Stonehaven ; in Edinburgh, 16th September ; in October revisits Harvieston ; Castle Campbell ; Peggie Chalmers ; Ramsay of Ochtertyre ; Murray of Ochtertyre ; Gienturit ; Dunfermline ; preparations for leaving Edinburgh ; love affair with Mrs M'Lehose ; Clarinda correspondence ; takes lease of Ellisland on the Nith from Miller of Dalswinton	74

CHAPTER IV.

Installed at Ellisland, March 1788 ; gives £200 to his family ; his marriage with Jean Armour publicly acknowledged, August 5th ; passes examination for the excise ; Mrs Burns detained at Mauchline ; song in view of her coming to Ellisland ; she arrives in December ; local library at Ellisland ; convivialities on the Nith ; Captain Riddell and "The Whistle" ; theological polemics ; "The Kirk's Alarm" ; electioneering verses ; "The Five Carlins" ; Grose, the antiquarian ; "Tam o' Shanter" ; "Highland Mary" ; the farming business at Ellisland abandoned, November 1791 ; Burns an excise officer in Dumfries	109
---	-----

CHAPTER V.

	PAGE
Burns as an exciseman ; Dumfries society ; drinking ; farewell to Clarinda ; four Dumfries fair ones—bonnie Lesley, Chloris, Lucy Oswald, Mrs Riddell ; explosion at Woodley Park ; despondency and despair ; lyrical activity ; contributions to Thomson's "Scottish Melodies" ; life in Dumfries ; vigorous performance of his duties as an exciseman ; "The Deil's awa' wi' the Exciseman" ; political excitement ; Burns a reformer, but opposed to extreme French ideas ; joins the Dumfries Volunteers ; ill of rheumatic fever, January 1796 ; his last lyrical pieces ; 4th July, at Brow ; visit of Mrs Riddell to the sick poet, 5th July 1796 ; death, 21st July ; public funeral . . .	127

CHAPTER VI.

The mission of Burns ; his realism ; his characteristic excellencies as a lyric poet of the first rank ; his complete and well-rounded manhood, intelligence, shrewdness, sagacity, sense, humour, wit, and patriotism ; great zest of life ; social electricity ; immense force of passion ; sociality and conviviality ; great self-respect and sense of honour ; pride, independence, and manliness ; "A Man's a Man for a' that ;" contempt for money ; intellectual ambition ; literary culture ; his letters ; his appreciation of Scotch as the musical dialect of English ; religion ; defends the Covenanters ; want of self-control ; the Bard's epitaph ; his mission fulfilled ; wise counsel to young men entering on life	155
INDEX	177
GLOSSARY	181

