

**THE FIRST FALSE  
STEP; A POEM**

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The First False Step; A Poem by James Cargill Guthrie

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**JAMES CARGILL GUTHRIE**

**THE FIRST FALSE  
STEP; A POEM**



SECOND EDITION

THE  
FIRST FALSE STEP.

A Poem.

BY

JAMES CARGILL GUTHRIE,  
AUTHOR OF "VILLAGE SCENES."



Page 166

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TO  
HIS GRACE  
GEORGE-DOUGLAS,  
DUKE OF ARGYLL,  
ETC., ETC.,

PRESIDENT OF THE SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION FOR  
SUPPRESSING DRUNKENNESS,

THIS POEM,  
*On the Evil Effects of Intemperance,*

IS INSCRIBED BY  
THE AUTHOR.

1. The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions and activities. It emphasizes that proper record-keeping is essential for transparency and accountability, particularly in financial reporting and compliance with regulatory requirements. The text notes that incomplete or inconsistent records can lead to significant legal and financial consequences for the organization.

2. The second part of the document outlines the various methods and tools used to collect and analyze data. It highlights the need for robust data management systems that can handle large volumes of information efficiently. The document also discusses the importance of data security and privacy, ensuring that sensitive information is protected from unauthorized access and breaches. Additionally, it touches upon the use of advanced analytics to derive meaningful insights from the collected data.

3. The third part of the document focuses on the integration of data from different sources and the challenges associated with this process. It mentions that data silos can hinder the organization's ability to gain a holistic view of its operations. The text suggests implementing data integration strategies that facilitate seamless data flow across various departments and systems. It also addresses the issue of data quality, emphasizing the need for regular audits and validation to ensure the accuracy and reliability of the information used for decision-making.

4. The final part of the document discusses the role of data in strategic planning and performance management. It states that data-driven insights are crucial for identifying trends, opportunities, and risks, enabling the organization to make informed decisions and adjust its strategy accordingly. The text also mentions the importance of setting key performance indicators (KPIs) and using data to track progress against these metrics. Overall, the document concludes that a data-centric approach is essential for achieving long-term success and maintaining a competitive edge in the market.

## PREFACE.

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LOOKING from one point of view, the Capital of the north has been, not unjustly, styled a "City of Palaces;" from another point of view, a "City of Hospitals;" while, with universal consent, she has been proclaimed "The Modern Athens." In another phase we shall now behold her, from which point of view we are afraid the fittest and most truthful appellation must be—The City of Wretchedness.

Let us suppose that an intelligent stranger has been attracted from afar to visit our renowned and beautiful city. On a bright



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summer day his vessel breasts the dark green waves of the estuary of the Forth. Everything on which the eye can rest—the noble bay with its shipping, the river with its green and rocky islands, the white shelving rocks and surrounding mountains, the towers and battlements of the distant city, — are gorgeously, nay, surpassingly beautiful. Welcomed by some philanthropic friend to Dnn-Edin's classic shore, he surveys with wonder and delight the many stately and magnificent structures of exquisite beauty which everywhere greet the eye; and, ascending some lofty eminence, the "City of Palaces," with its spacious streets and squares—its gardens, its monuments, its lordly domes and glittering spires, lies in surpassing glory and loveliness at his feet; while the wide-spreading bay, hemmed in by undulating hills, green and beautiful

to their summits, lies in calm and peaceful beauty beyond. His charming reverie is, however, interrupted by an invitation from his friend to view the more ancient parts of the city; and, descending the Castle-Hill, he pursues his way along the Canongates and Cowgates, with their dark and dismal "wynds"—entering this abode of misery and disease, and that hovel of wretchedness and crime; until, sick at heart at these novel and hitherto unheard-of sights, and scenes, and sounds, he again gratefully breathes the fresh air of heaven on his way to the lordly mansion of his friend in another quarter of the city.

After partaking of the most sumptuous hospitality, we now find him in the gorgeous drawing-room, surrounded by the fairest and loveliest of our land. Rich and exquisite music charms his ear; high intellectual con-

verse pleases and delights his heart. Still his thoughts involuntarily revert to the sad scenes he had so lately witnessed. Let us suppose, then, he takes advantage of one of those pauses which sometimes occur even in the most polished circles, and describes with truthful and graphic power the sights and scenes he so lately beheld, will it be believed that the great majority, if not nearly all, of that gay and brilliant throng, will listen to his soul-stirring description, as if it were some highly coloured tale of the dismal sights and scenes of other and distant lands? Yet, sad and humiliating as the confession undoubtedly is, it is nevertheless true, that the great proportion of the upper classes of society amongst us are absolutely and entirely ignorant that such revolting scenes can every day be witnessed in all their aggravated heinousness and hideous