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ACCOUNT OF ALL THE BOOKS WHICH  
HAVE BEEN PRINTED IN THE GAELIC  
LANGUAGE: WITH BIBLIOGRAPHICAL  
AND BIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649207534

Bibliotheca Scoto-Celtica; or, An account of all the books which have been printed in the Gaelic language: with bibliographical and biographical notices by John Reid

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

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*W. Campbell*

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## PREFACE.

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SOME apology may perhaps be deemed necessary for a Lowlander attempting to write a History of Highland Literature. The only apology offered, is, that it was not written with the view of being published. While studying the Gaelic Language in 1825, a friend wished me to make up a catalogue of his Gaelic books; it appeared after this list was made up scarcely probable that many more should exist—and under the idea of having almost already completed the list, the present work was undertaken. All the Gaelic books in the neighbourhood were examined, but I found the work increase so rapidly on my hands, that it became necessary to class them and re-write the whole; and the longer I searched the more I was convinced, that the Literature of the Gael was richer than even its friends imagined. The number of Translations, Song books, etc., which I now met with, many of them works which I had never previously heard of, obliged me four times to extend the plan originally adopted and to re-write the MS.

The great body of this work was finished in 1827, when the MS. fell accidentally into the hands of the Right Honourable Sir John Sinclair, Bart., who