

**REMINISCENCES OF
SCOTTISH LIFE
AND CHARACTER**

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Reminiscences of Scottish life and character by E. B. Ramsay

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REMINISCENCES
OF
SCOTTISH LIFE AND CHARACTER

BY
E. B. RAMSAY, M.A., F.R.S.E.
DEAN OF EDINBURGH.

Third Edition, much Enlarged.

EDINBURGH:
EDMONSTON AND DOUGLAS.

1859.



To THE MOST HONOURABLE
JAMES ANDREW MARQUIS OF DALHOUSIE,
K.T., P.C., &c. &c.

— 000 —

My DEAR LORD DALHOUSIE,

I beg permission to dedicate to you the third edition of a work which has grown upon my hands to many times the size of the original lecture with which it commenced. I am quite conscious that the only claim which my book can have either to the notice of my countrymen, or to any share of attention from your Lordship, consists in this—that it is out and out a Scottish book. It is conversant with a species of anecdotes which are peculiar to Scotland—with a species of humour exclusively Scottish. The object is to fix and preserve a page of our domestic national annals which, in the eyes of the rising generation, is fast fading into oblivion.

I am happy to take any opportunity of acknowledging that the long friendship of one so able, so high minded, and so illustrious, as the Marquis of Dalhousie, has been amongst the most honourable and gratifying incidents of a life not now a short one. But my present purpose is rather to present my book to a Scottish nobleman who has a full relish for a Scottish story, and this taste, in yourself, I know to be a hereditary one, for your distinguished father, the late Earl of Dalhousie, was a thorough Scotchman, and in regard to such anecdotes as those which I have endeavoured to collect, we may say of him (to borrow a homely expression from the worthy Bailie Nicol Jarvie), that "he liket ane o' them weel, honest man!"

I am,

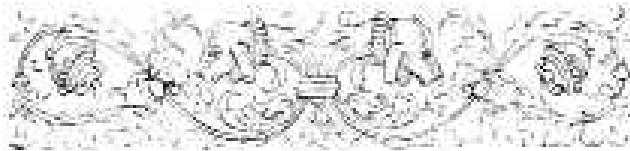
With much respect and regard,

Your Lordship's affectionate friend,

E. B. RAMSAY.

AINSLIE PLACE, EDINBURGH,

June 1859.



PREFACE.

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THE present edition of "Reminiscences of Scottish Life and Character," might, in fact, almost have been issued as a new work, so much are the former materials enlarged by the introduction of fresh anecdotes, kindly contributed from various quarters, by the account of Scottish proverbs, and by other additions. The field of inquiry for such reminiscences is very extensive, and I am convinced is far from being yet exhausted. But I fear the labourers are growing few. We are constantly hearing of the death of some person who, it is said, was possessed of a rich store of original Scottish anecdotes, which have not been