

**FOUR POEMS FROM
"ZION'S FLOWERS;" OR,
"CHRISTIAN POEMS FOR
SPIRITUAL EDIFICATION"**

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Four Poems From "Zion's Flowers;" Or, "Christian Poems for Spiritual Edification" by Mr. Zacharie Boyd

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MR. ZACHARIE BOYD

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FOUR POEMS
FROM
"ZION'S FLOWERS;"
OR,
"Christian Poems for Spiritual Edification."

By MR. ZACHARIE BOYD,

MINISTER OF CHRISTIAN KIRK, AND EVANGEL AT THE PAROCH OF GLASGOW.

PRINTED FROM HIS MANUSCRIPT IN THE LIBRARY OF THE UNIVERSITY
OF GLASGOW.

WITH

AN INTRODUCTION CONTAINING SOME NOTICE OF HIS LIFE AND WRITINGS.

EDITED BY GABRIEL NEILL.

"He being dead, yet speaketh."



GLASGOW :—PRINTED BY GEORGE RICHARDSON,
Printer to the University.

MDCCLV.

1855

ONLY 400 COPIES PRINTED.



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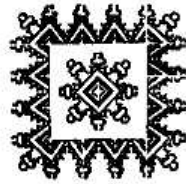
ILLUSTRATIONS.

Frontispiece—Bust in the College Court.

Vignette, Title Page—Fac-simile of the Arms of Glasgow as used by Robert Sanders, Printer to the City and University anno 1675.

Fac-simile of the Manuscript of "Zion's Flowers," commonly called "Zachary Boyd's Bible."

Fac-simile of Devices from the Author's Printed Works.



INTRODUCTION.

In 1831 the writer edited a reprint of "The Last Battell of the Soule in Death," published by Mr. Zacharis Boyd, 1629, to which a Biographical Sketch of the Author, and an Account of his Printed and Manuscript Works, &c. were prefixed, and since that time he has received, in a variety of public notices some thanks, for having assisted in bringing forward a neglected Author, who had been long in many particulars most unjustly traduced. (*App. Note 1.*) In as far as the writer has had subsequent opportunities of observing, any new investigation into Mr. Boyd's life has additionally shewn, that in the highest sense of the phrase he was a good man, and that from his literary and ministerial qualifications he was a distinguished ornament to Glasgow more than two centuries ago, as well as in his having been a munificent benefactor of learning through his worldly means. A degree of pleasure, nay, even of profitable improvement attaches itself, to now and then holding a little communion with one thus meriting our esteem.

There is an important point specially connected with Mr. Boyd's history, *wamely*, that at his death he left a large collection of Works, Printed and in Manuscript, the composition of which must have occupied a great portion of his time; and the wonder is, how that, along with the discharge of his public and private duties, he had been able to accomplish so much. A view of these Works (*App. Note 2.*) will be sufficient to convince the most incredulous of his indefatigable

perseverance and industry, and of his having been a practical example of Solomon's words, "of making many books there is no end, and much study is a weariness of the flesh." It is unfortunate that the Books which he published in his day, have been for an unknown course of years "out of print," or if by chance a solitary copy of any of them is now to be found, it is secured as a prize by antiquarian Bibliographers and Collectors, and a high price paid for it. (*App. Note 3.*) His Manuscript Works have been adjudged to the severe doom of being confined to the Library Presses of the University, accessible only to curious inquirers, and the two volumes of "Zion's Flowers," (his so called "Bible,") from their airless, quiet situation in some of their depositories, have in many pages of their matter, suffered from damp and decay. (*App. Note 4.*) It may be said upon the whole as regards the public benefit derived from his numerous Writings, either Published or in Manuscript, to be much the same as if he had never penned or printed a line of them. Except for what has lately been done, and that in a very limited and fragmentary manner, his Works were in danger of having become entirely forgotten. Thanks, however, to the antique, quaint looking bust in the College Court; to the Portrait in the Divinity Hall, from the pencil of some excellent artist, full of manly expression; to the foundation of his three Bursaries for three Theological Students, who yet hand him down as his representatives; to his liberal deeds for aiding the construction of our venerable University buildings; and by a singular fate to the wide spread tradition of his having "*rendered the whole Bible into verse,*" all of which, notwithstanding the want of his literary compositions, have kept alive his remembrance among us. As the effect of information which has been from time to time elicited, his name has *at last* had a place assigned to it in the "Republic of Letters," by now generally appearing in our most popular biographical collections.

In the reprint of the work in 1831 referred to, a variety of "Poetical Excerpts" were given as specimens of Mr. Boyd's talents, chiefly in respect to such of his Writings as are in MS. It was at that date the intention of the writer, in preference to the "Excerpts" or Extracts which were made from "Zion's Flowers," 2 vols., 4to, to have