

**THE THREE TALES OF THE THREE
PRIESTS OF PEEBLES,
RENDERED FROM THE ANCIENT
SCOTS VERNACULAR INTO
MODERN SCOTTISH**

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The Three Tales of the Three Priests of Peebles, Rendered from the Ancient Scots Vernacular
into Modern Scottish by Clement Bryce Gunn

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CLEMENT BRYCE GUNN

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THE THREE TALES
OF THE
THREE PRIESTS OF PEEBLES

WITH

ILLUSTRATIONS & COPIOUS NOTES.

Rendered from the Ancient Scots Vernacular into
Modern Scottish by

CLEMENT BRYCE GUNN, M.D. (*Ed.*)

AUTHOR OF "LAYS OF ST. ANDREWS."

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1894.

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Denny fund.



DEDICATION.



**Conjugi dilectissimæ.
Hoc opusculum.**

ILLUSTRATIONS.

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PREFATORY NOTE.

THIS poem, written probably about the latter half of the fifteenth century by an unknown author, may, along with the coeval poem, "Peebles to the Play," be termed a Classic of Peebles. Although of such respectable antiquity, and presumably a production of the locality, the work is all but unknown in the place which gives it name, and no copy exists in its library. Had the poem been generally accessible, however, its obsolete words and phrases, still further obscured by quaint orthography, would have debarred all but students of mediæval literature from an intelligent comprehension of its scope and meaning.

In the "History of Peeblesshire," Dr William Chambers refers to the work in eulogistic terms, and regrets the fact of its being so little known. It was this notice which first made the present editor acquainted with so interesting a relic of the literature of the Middle Ages. He desires in turn to make its subject-matter more widely diffused; and to reveal, in comprehensible form, to his fellow-townsmen more especially, their inheritance down through the centuries. The tales are of sustained interest to the end; they abound in quaint allusions to the civic life of the period, of which they afford many a curious glimpse, and are not without some practical lessons applicable to the present day.

Regarding the form which the tales have assumed in this volume, the editor is prepared for criticism. He had been advised to produce merely a reprint of the text from the most authentic sources, and add notes and vocabulary. This is the scholastic idea. His aim, however, has been to make a readable and popular rendering of the tales, which can be understood and enjoyed without the interrupting breaks in the continuity of the story, which are the result of footnotes and vocabulary. Every obscure word has been translated into its modern equivalent; the metre has been rendered uniform and consonant with the new setting to the tales, and copious contemporary notes supplement the text. These would have been much less complete but for the valuable and interesting researches made among the ancient documents of Peebles by my friend Mr Renwick, of the City Chambers, Glasgow. The archives of the burgh form a singularly rich collection of mediæval incidents, domestic and ecclesiastical, and Mr Renwick deserves well of his fellow-townsmen for thus laboriously bringing to light again the ancient life of the Border burgh.

C. B. G.