

**ORAN, AND
OTHER POEMS**

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Oran, and Other Poems by Alexander T. M'Lean

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ALEXANDER T. M'LEAN

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• AND

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BY

ALEXANDER T. M'LEAN.

GLASGOW:

THOMAS MURRAY & SON, BUCHANAN STREET.

EDINBURGH: JOHN MENZIES.

LONDON: DAVID BOGUE. DUBLIN: W. CURRY, JUN., AND CO.

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LOAN STACK

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PREFATORY.

IN venturing to submit the following Poems to the public, the Author felt a degree of hesitation at undertaking such a step. Some of his minor pieces, however, having been published in several local journals, and having received the approbation of gentlemen whose taste and critical acumen are a sufficient guarantee for the correctness of their judgment, he was encouraged to bring them out in a collected form, together with his more ambitious efforts, which are now published for the first time.

It has always been the Author's aim in his poetry to advance the cause of morality, and to refine and exalt the human mind. In the Poem of "ORAN," on which he expects his title to the high vocation of the Poet will be chiefly considered, he has throughout kept steadily in view three things: first, to avoid the mystical and ambiguous form and expression which are the prevailing objections to modern poetry; second, to express its scope and design in the clearest and most natural style, and, by its treatment, to sustain the interest of its subject to the end; and,

third, to make it the channel of conveying high moral and religious truth. How far he has succeeded in these respects must be left to the judgment of the reader. Whatever merit "ORAN" may possess, it may not be unimportant to state, that this Poem is the result of close and anxious study, and was composed during the intervals of an onerous profession which allowed little leisure for cultivating the favours of the Muse, though its composition afforded the writer a source of high enjoyment.

Believing the vocation of the Critics to be that of fostering and directing the public taste, the Author most respectfully submits his productions for their verdict, satisfied that where merit exists it will be cordially acknowledged, and that where there is reason to condemn, it will be done with a view to correct his faults. In conclusion, he has only to say that he shall be happy to avail himself of their suggestions and advice.

A. T. M'L.

LOW CARTCRAIGS,
POLLOKSHAW, *June*, 1857.

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