

**MALCOLM AND CLARA; A
TALE OF THE
SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS,
AND OTHER POEMS**

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Malcolm and Clara; a tale of the Scottish Highlands, and other poems by Mac

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MAC

**MALCOLM AND CLARA; A
TALE OF THE
SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS,
AND OTHER POEMS**



"Where standing lone within that sacred close,
You bending yew-tree, solemn, waving sighs,
Entombed in silent death's long, deep repose,
Beneath its shade the youthful poet lies."

MALCOLM AND CLARA;

A Tale

OF THE

SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS,

AND OTHER POEMS.

By MAC.

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1874.

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PREFACE.

THE contents of this little volume, now laid before the public, must not be supposed to possess that grace and elegance of composition which generally exhibits the delicate feelings and sentiments of the man whose work has been produced under the advantages of retirement and a life of uninterrupted study.

The author of the following poetical attempts is a youth of nineteen, whose time has been mostly spent in the toils of an active commercial life, with very little leisure allotted him for the development of those impulses which consequently only appear in their rude uncultivated state in this volume.

If the critic, after examining these pages, happens to discover one sentiment worthy of sufficient commendation to stimulate further effort, the author will be amply rewarded;

but, on the other hand, should he consider the author and his work as unfit to steer through the "sea of letters," let his fate be at once decided, to be consigned for ever to the dark shades of obscurity and oblivion, or, as my countryman expresses it—

"Such is the fate of simple bard,
On life's rough ocean luckless starr'd!
Unskillful he to note the card
Of prudent lore,
Till billows rage, and gales blow hard,
And whelm him o'er."

April, 1874.

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