

**AULD YULE, AND  
OTHER POEMS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649068661

Auld Yule, and Other Poems by William Knight & George Gilfillan

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**WILLIAM KNIGHT & GEORGE GILFILLAN**

**AULD YULE, AND  
OTHER POEMS**



# AULD YULE

AND

OTHER POEMS,

BY

WILLIAM KNIGHT.

WITH AN INTRODUCTORY ESSAY.

BY THE

REV. GEORGE GILFILLAN.

AND RECOLLECTIONS OF THE AUTHOR'S LIFE.

---

EDINBURGH: J. MENZIES & Co.  
ABERDEEN: WILLIAM LINDSAY.

MDCCLXIX.

Entered at Stationers Hall.

140 C 5002

## PUBLISHER'S NOTE.

---

THE difficulties that had to be encountered in collecting the MSS. from which this Volume has been printed, were numerous. The help promised, when I first resolved to publish, has not in a few important instances been rendered, for reasons over which the friends who promised it had perhaps little control; nevertheless, many of the Author's intimate acquaintances, in different parts of the country, gave me valuable aid, to whom I beg sincerely to tender my warmest acknowledgements. That the book, as far as regards the Editing, will be found to exhibit defects, I am deeply conscious. All I have to say on that point is, that with the leisure and means at my disposal, I have done my best to issue this, the first edition, in as perfect and readable a form as possible, in the circumstances; but ere the next edition appears, I have good reason to hope that I will be in a position to present it in a style more worthy of the genius and many distinguished attainments of its Author: to procure a recognition of which was my principal object in undertaking to publish the work now respectfully submitted to the public.

WILLIAM LINDSAY.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120	121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129	130	131	132	133	134	135	136	137	138	139	140	141	142	143	144	145	146	147	148	149	150	151	152	153	154	155	156	157	158	159	160	161	162	163	164	165	166	167	168	169	170	171	172	173	174	175	176	177	178	179	180	181	182	183	184	185	186	187	188	189	190	191	192	193	194	195	196	197	198	199	200
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

## INTRODUCTORY ESSAY.

---

IF we were to say what is the principal quality of the volume of Poems to which this is the Preface, we should say it was their Pre-Raphaelite truthfulness, simple natural painting, and entire freedom from the sensational element which has become so rife in the present day.

No word so common in the present day as Sensational. We hear of the sensational in the pulpit, the newspaper, the poem, the novel, dress, architecture, public religious worship, and a hundred other things. It is often said to be an age of sensation ; and the highest compliment to any one man, or any one book, or any one thing, is that it has made a sensation. Some speak even as if Sensationalism only began during the present century. This, however, is a great mistake. Sensation and Sensationalism have long—nay, perhaps always, existed. The Sophists in ancient Greece were sensational teachers. They raised Philosophy from earth to heaven—lifted





Yours sincerely  
J. M. Smith

SKETCH  
OF THE  
LIFE OF WILLIAM KNIGHT.

---

WILLIAM KNIGHT, author of the following Poems, was born in 1825, near Portgordon, County of Banff. He was the illegitimate son of a landed proprietor in Aberdeenshire. Little is known of his childhood, until the death of his grandfather, with whom he resided, after which event his mother and he removed to Fife-Keith. He was sent to the Parish School of Keith, where he received the rudiments of an excellent education, under the late Mr. James Smith, to whom in after years he dedicated his poem "The Valley of the Isla." When at School he was regarded by his teacher and classmates, as a boy of unusually brilliant parts. He generally stood at the head of his class. Even when at School, he began to turn his attention to the investigation of Philosophic subjects. His opinions on the social and political questions of the day were eagerly sought after by older heads than his own.

Keith, like almost every other Scottish village, had a circle of wisecracks, who met frequently for the discussion of "affairs of Kirk and State," and even subjects of a scientific nature were often under their consideration — Mesmerism, Phrenology, and Electro-Biology, occasionally formed part of their speculations. These worthies found in young Knight an eager and intelligent companion and coadjutor. Doubtless his early mingling with men of this class had tended to develop the powers of his mind, and helped to the acquisition of that rich and varied stock of knowledge of men, manners, society, and the higher branches of study, with which his works show him to have been familiar.

It is believed that his father recognised the boy as possessing uncommon ability, and that he intended to have procured a commission for him in the Navy. Circumstances however of a domestic nature are said to have altered his father's purpose, and led to young Knight's having to leave his paternal home, where he resided for some time, without any provision being made for him. He returned again to Fife-Keith, and lived with his mother—sought the companionship of the old circle, and studied harder than ever. The people in the district say still that the village gossips used to shake their heads as he moved out and in among them, at this period, and called him a "wonderfu' laddie."