

**RUSTIC LAYS, ON  
THE BRAES OF  
GALA WATER**

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Rustic Lays, on the Braes of Gala Water by Margaret Crawford

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**MARGARET CRAWFORD**

**RUSTIC LAYS, ON  
THE BRAES OF  
GALA WATER**



RUSTIC LAYS,

or

THE BRAES OF GALA WATER.

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# RUSTIC LAYS,

OR

The Braes of Gala Water,

BY

MARGARET CRAWFORD,

A GARDENER'S DAUGHTER, STOW.



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1855.

## INTRODUCTION.

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THESE POETICAL SKETCHES are the first efforts of the Authoress, and were composed in the few hours of leisure which she has been able to devote, amid the duties of active life, to the cultivation of the Muses.

It may be easy for a critical eye to detect blemishes and imperfections,—but, in presenting these POEMS to the Public, she trusts that springing, as they do, from one who has never enjoyed the advantages of a liberal education, they will be received with indulgence. At the same time, the kind encouragement which she has met with from a few highly esteemed friends, has lead her to entertain the hope that they may not prove altogether destitute of merit. Living from her earliest years in a “land of song,” she has felt the sweet spirit of poesy breathing upon her; and, charmed by the romantic scenery around her,—green woods, and heath-clad hills, deep glens and

sparkling streams,—she has been often impelled to give utterance to her feelings in verse.

Many of these pieces were composed by the Authoress on the banks of the Gala, whose sweet, soft music, mingling with the melodies of the woodland, has often charmed her into forgetfulness of the rough realities of life. Others were composed at the fireside, in her father's little cottage, at the hours of the *gloamin*, when, after the bustle of the day had ceased, the clouds and cares of the present were chased away by the bright dreams of the past, and the happy hopes of the future, till she found that her musings had twined themselves into numbers, and assumed the form in which they now appear.

The authoress has much pleasure in taking advantage of this opportunity to express her heart-felt thanks to her many kind friends for their warm and active assistance, without which she would not have been able to publish this little volume.



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