

**THE JACOBITE EPISODE IN
SCOTTISH HISTORY AND
ITS RELATIVE LITERATURE;
AN ESSAY**

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The Jacobite episode in Scottish history and its relative literature; an essay by Willmott Dixon

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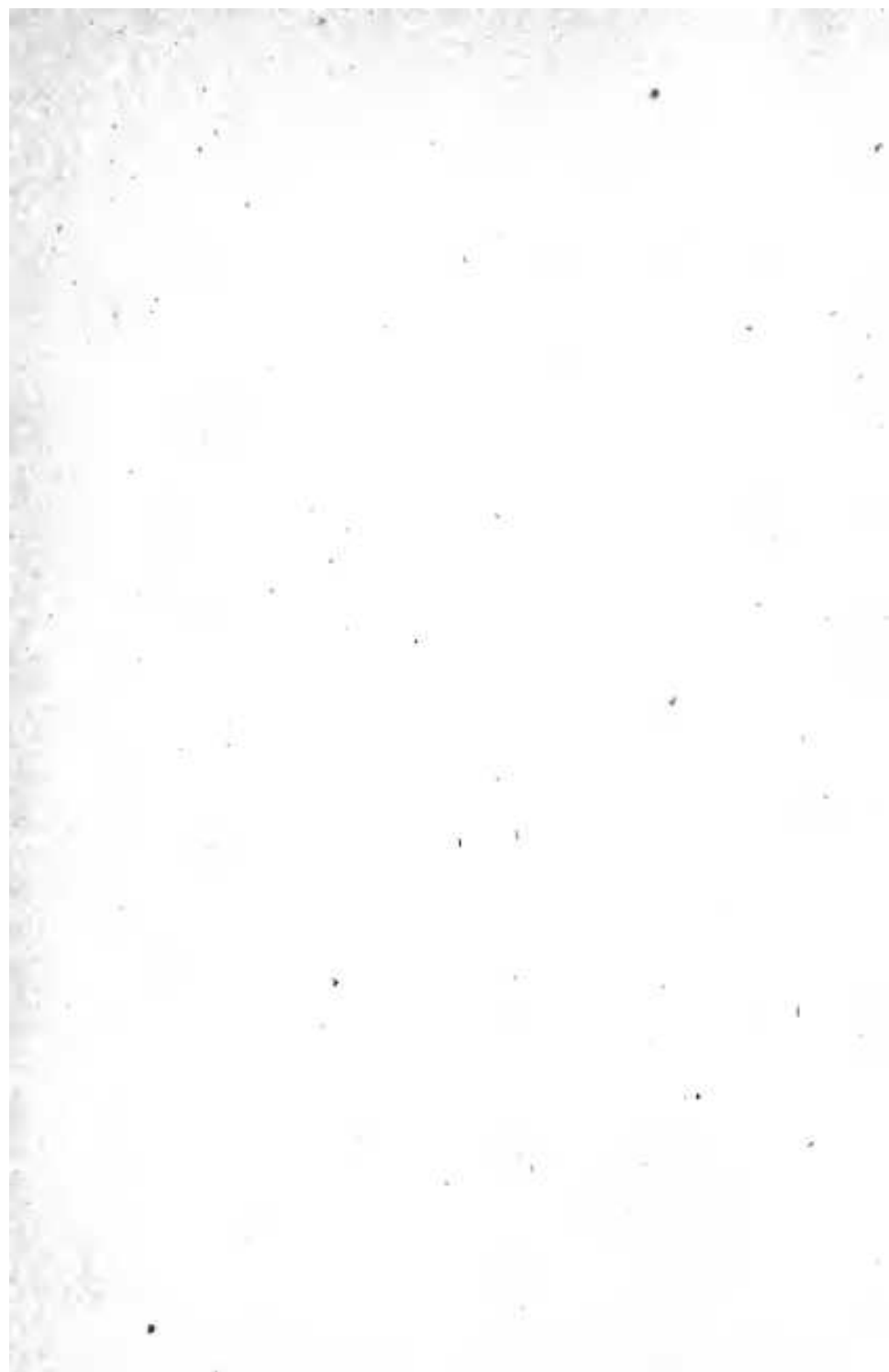
BY

WILLMOTT DIXON, LL. B.,

OF TRINITY COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE, AND OF THE INNER
TEMPLE, BARRISTER-AT-LAW.

“Nor wanted at their end
.....from tender hearts,
And those who sorrowed o'er a vanished race,
Pity, the violet on the tyrant's grave.”—*Tennyson. Asimer's Field.*

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PREFATORY NOTE.

As the limits of the present Essay do not admit of its being encumbered with copious references to authorities, the author thinks it desirable to give the following list of works consulted in its compilation:—

Memoirs of Lochiel—Correspondence of Colonel Hooke—Jacobite Correspondence of the Athole Family—The Lockhart Papers—The Culloden Papers—Memoirs of the Master of Sinclair—Memoirs of the Master of Lovat—Dalrymple's Memoirs of Great Britain and Ireland—Wodrow's Correspondence—Defoe's History of the Union—The Letters of Captain Burt—Macpherson's Original Papers—Patten's History of 1715—Rae's History of 1715—Forbes's Jacobite Memoirs of 1745—The Chevalier Johnstone's Memoirs of 1745—Genuine Memoirs of John Murray of Broughton—Dr. King's Political Anecdotes—Marchant's History of 1745—Henderson's ditto—Boyse's ditto—Home's ditto.

In addition to these contemporary records of the Jacobite Episode, the author has to express his indebtedness to the following later works:—

Thomson's Memoirs of the Jacobites—Jesse's Memoirs of the Pretenders—Oliphant's Jacobite Lairds of Gask—

Napier's Memorials of the Life and Times of Graham of Claverhouse—The Waverley Novels—Tales of a Grandfather—Chambers' History of 1745—Gregory's History of the Western Highlands—Brown's History of the Highlands—Wright's History of Scotland—Burton's History of Scotland from the Revolution—Lord Russell's Memoirs of the Affairs of Europe from the Peace of Utrecht—Buckle's History of Civilization—and the Histories of Hume, Mahon, and Macaulay.

With reference to the Ballad Literature of Jacobitism, the author has consulted the Collections of Hogg, Ritson, Cromek, Cunninghame, and Mackay.

THE
Jacobite Episode in Scottish History
AND ITS
RELATIVE LITERATURE.

"Tros Tyriusve mihi nullo discrimine agetur."—VIRGIL, *Æn.* I, 574.

ROMANCE seems to have claimed the Jacobite Episode as its own, and has so fiercely resented any encroachment upon its domains that History has abandoned the field in despair. Even sober students, who have approached the subject with an honest desire for truthful inquiry and impartial investigation, have been unable to resist the magic spell, and have found themselves converted, against their will, from historians into romancers. They have seen every person and every circumstance connected with this episode through a glowing atmosphere of romance; and

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traditions which would, under ordinary conditions, have been scouted as poetical myths, have in this case been accepted as grave and indisputable historical facts.

But romance is not the only obstacle in the way of the patient and honest seeker after truth in this period of Scottish history. Another and almost as formidable an impediment is partizanship. Even now it is difficult to approach the subject without feeling something of party heat and something of party bias. What it must have been when personal recollections and experiences added tenfold bitterness to these feelings, is not hard to imagine. It was almost impossible for writers to take any middle course between the extremes of rabid Jacobitism and equally rabid Whiggism. And it is a wearisome task wading through the pages of extravagant eulogy or unmeasured invective, according as the writer treats of friends or enemies, which deface and obscure almost every record of this interesting and eventful period.

To the Jacobite, the inhabitants who peopled Great Britain at that time were divided into two classes—the angels who followed the exiled Stuarts, paragons of perfection, models of all that is chivalrous, noble, and heroic—and the devils who held by the usurping Elector of Hanover, monsters of iniquity and cruelty, poltroons, knaves, and scoundrels of the deepest dye. And, *mutatis mutandis*, the same holds true of the Whig. There is no believing or trusting either of them; and all that the honest historical student can do, is to follow Ovid's advice, "*Medio tutissimus ibis*," and hope that a middle course will be nearer the truth than either extreme. It is in this spirit that I have essayed to treat the subject. If I have not always been able to free myself from the bias of political opinions, I have at least tried in the main to be impartial and give each side a fair hearing. That it is not always easy even to do this, all who have studied the subject will admit; and they will bear me out, I am sure, in the