

**YARROW: ITS POETS AND
POETRY. WITH
INTRODUCTION AND
NOTES BY R. BORLAND**

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Yarrow: Its Poets and Poetry. With Introduction and Notes by R. Borland by Various .

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VARIOUS .

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ITS POETS AND POETRY.



WITH
INTRODUCTION
AND NOTES
By R. BORLAND,
MINISTER
OF
YARROW.

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PREFACE.

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THE object I have had in view in preparing this work for the press has been to bring together the more notable and interesting ballads and poems which Yarrow has inspired, giving such brief biographical sketches of the various poets as may prove either interesting or instructive to the general reader. The task of making a judicious selection from the mass of material which lay ready to hand was none of the easiest. For many generations Yarrow has been a favourite theme of the votaries of the Muse; indeed, no other river in the world has been so much besung. The poems here published are fairly representative of the poetical literature of the valley. Many of them have attained an almost world-wide celebrity; others of them, perhaps, derive their chief interest from local or historical associations, and a number of them are here published for the first time.

I have endeavoured to give the various ballads and poems, as nearly as possible, in the form in which I have found them either in the works of their respective authors, or as printed in the newspapers and magazines in which they were originally published. This accounts for a certain variety of spelling which the eager eye of the critic will be sure to detect. In not a few cases the form of a poem, or ballad, has become so familiar to the reader that to alter it, however

justifiable the change from a merely literary point of view, would create a feeling of disappointment. As far as possible, therefore, I have studiously refrained from interfering with the original text.

I have to express my heartiest thanks to all who have favoured me with contributions, and especially to my friends, Alex. Anderson and "J. B. Selkirk," for helpful suggestions in preparing the work for the press; also to Mr M. M. L. Harper, Castle-Douglas, and Mr Thos. Fraser, Dalbeattie, for their valuable assistance in correcting the proofs. I have to acknowledge the kindness of Macmillan & Co. for permission to use Principal Shairp's poem, "Three Friends in Yarrow," originally published in *Glen Desseray*. My warmest thanks are also due to Mrs Mangin for her sketches of Yarrow here reproduced.

The portion of the work for which I am more immediately responsible can lay no claim to any special literary merit. I have been mainly anxious to furnish whatever information may be necessary for the due appreciation of the local or historical setting of the various poems here brought together.

R. B.

MANSE OF YARROW,
July 20th, 1890.

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