

**ERCHIE, MY  
DROLL FRIEND**

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Erchie, my droll friend by Hugh Foulis

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**HUGH FOULIS**

**ERCHIE, MY  
DROLL FRIEND**



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ERCHIE



MY DROLL FRIEND, ERCHIE.

# ERCHIE

MY . . .  
DROLL  
FRIEND

BY

*Hugh Foulis*  
HUGH FOULIS

(THE LOOKER-ON)

WILLIAM BLACKWOOD AND SONS  
EDINBURGH AND LONDON  
MCMIV

## PREFACE.

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THE majority of the following chapters are selections from "Erichie" articles contributed to the pages of the 'Glasgow Evening News' during the past three years. A number of the sketches are now published for the first time.



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# ERCHIE

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## I

### INTRODUCTORY TO AN ODD CHARACTER

ON Sundays he is the beadle of our church; at other times he Waits. In his ecclesiastical character there is a solemn dignity about his deportment that compels most of us to call him Mr MacPherson; in his secular hours, when passing the fruit at a city banquet, or when at the close of the repast he sweeps away the fragments of the dinner-rolls, and whisperingly expresses in your left ear a fervent hope that "ye've enjoyed your dinner," he is simply Erchie.

Once I forgot, deluded a moment into a Sunday train of thought by his reverent way of laying down a bottle of Pommery, and called him Mr MacPherson. He reproved me with a glance of his eye.

"There's nae Mr MacPhersons here," said he afterwards; "at whit ye might call the social board I'm jist Erchie, or whiles Easy-gaun Erchie wi' them that kens me langest. There's