

**MISCELLANEOUS
POEMS,
CHIEFLY SCOTTISH**

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Miscellaneous poems, chiefly Scottish by John Laing

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JOHN LAING

**MISCELLANEOUS
POEMS,
CHIEFLY SCOTTISH**

MISCELLANEOUS POEMS,

CHIEFLY SCOTTISH.

BY

JOHN LAING,

TROON.

Those of honour will not grudge
A fellow mortal leave to speak,
Especially when he speaks the truth—
And truth is all that Truth dare seek.

Printed for the Author

BY

CHARLES MURCHLAND,

PUBLISHER,

IRVINE AND TROON.

MDCCLXXIV.

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1894

P R E F A C E .



ANY ventures have I undertaken in the past without fear or hesitation, but this, to me, the most important venture in my career, is taken with something akin to fear and trembling. Under the impression that the following trifles carried with them sufficient merit to enable me to squeeze myself into the ranks of the minor poets of my beloved country, induced me to flatter my vanity thus far in the publication of the present selected collection of my productions; and now that I have done so, I wait with trembling suspense the verdict of a critical jury, who, I hope, in their summing up, will take a lenient view of my case, from the fact that the enclosed are not the outpourings of one favoured with a University training, or the higher grades of education, and much of the little that I possess was gained in the quiet hours of the evening when the toil and worry of the day was gone. Truth, honesty of purpose, and a sense of justice were my sole guides in directing my pen in that which I have written, much of which was penned in defence of the oppressed against oppression, in the sincere belief and conviction under which I was labouring when the spirit of poesy overtook me. And now, Reader, no further sympathy I crave from you than a fair and impartial perusal, and then the verdict, be what it may, of an unbiased mind, leaning more to truth and justice than bigotry and prejudice.

To my subscribers I owe a deep debt of gratitude for their support in enabling me to undertake the present venture, which, but for their aid, in all likelihood, a book of poems never would have been forthcoming from the pen of

Yours truly,

JOHN LAING.

December, 1894.

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MISCELLANEOUS POEMS.

