

**THE POETICAL WORKS OF
WILLIAM NICHOLSON,
WITH A MEMOIR**

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The Poetical Works of William Nicholson, with a Memoir by William Nicholson & M. M. Harper

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WILLIAM NICHOLSON & M. ML. HARPER

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WILLIAM NICHOLSON.

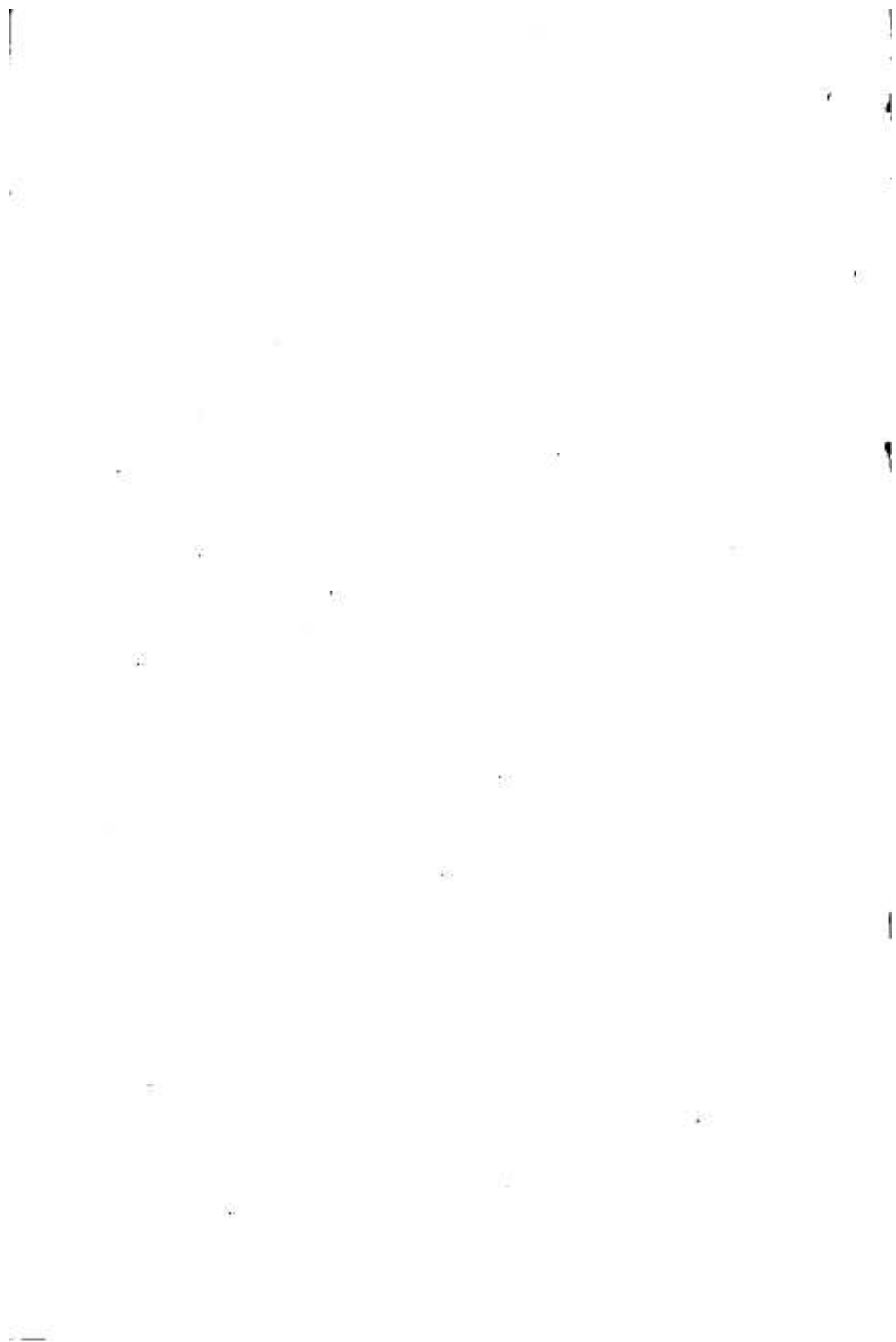
(Painted in 1836)

The
Poetical Works
of
William Nicholson.



*The banks & Tarrifore burnie O.

CASTLE-DOUGLAS
SAMUEL GORDON



THE
POETICAL WORKS
OF
WILLIAM NICHOLSON

THIRD EDITION

WITH A MEMOIR BY M. M'L HARPER
AUTHOR OF "RAMBLES IN GALLOWAY," &c.
AND PORTRAIT BY JOHN FAED, R.S.A.

CASTLE-DOUGLAS : SAMUEL GORDON.
KIRKCUDBRIGHT : JAMES NICHOLSON.

1878.



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TO THE
FIRST EDITION.

THE following pieces were chiefly composed as a consolation in the Author's solitary wanderings through the wild and beautiful scenery of his native county. In them he has attempted to delineate such of her pastoral graces as chanced to attract his untutored fancy, and also to draw a sketch of the sentiments and manners of a valuable class of the community, namely, those that surround, in social circle, the farmer's ingle. How far this is accomplished, the public must now determine. He is well aware that the whole would have required the polish of a more masterly hand, particularly in this meridian of poetry and criticism: he doubts not, however, but that those who are the most capable of judging, will be the readiest to forgive the frailties of the unlettered muse, thoughtlessly straying in the humbler walks of life. Though he does not offer himself to the public at the request of friends, from the vain affectation of reforming the age, nor altogether from the darling wish of poets—the love of fame; yet he is not without a secret hope that the compositions which have sometimes yielded to his own mind a silent pleasure, may prove to others an innocent amusement for a vacant hour; and that congenial

spirits, who make no pretensions to a superfine taste, or critical nicety, may sometimes recognize in them a picture of their own feelings, and some rude but, true, sketches of nature. But should he in this be disappointed, like several of his song-smitten brethren, the worst is only to muster up a little patience and resignation, to see some of his youthful dreams, the visionary children of his brain, soberly laid in the cradle of oblivion.

Before taking a final leave, however, the Author is happy to have the pleasure of expressing his grateful acknowledgments to the celebrated Mr. HOGG for his generous and unwearied attention, since the Author came to Edinburgh, where he was almost friendless and unknown. He also returns his warmest wishes to his very numerous and respectable list of Subscribers, and in particular to friends among his native Bracs of Galloway. It has long been a striking feature in the character of his countrymen, that their minds are ever open to the slightest dawn of genius, and their feelings ready to sympathize with the stranger and the unprotected. That they may long retain their unaffected kindness and native simplicity of heart, is the sincere wish of

Their truly grateful and humble servant,

W. N.

QUEENSHILL, near KIRKCUDBRIGHT, }
April 15, 1814.