

**MISCELLANEOUS POEMS AND
BALLADS, CHIEFLY IN THE
DIALECTS OF CUMBERLAND AND
THE ENGLISH AND SCOTCH
BORDERS**

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Miscellaneous Poems and Ballads, Chiefly in the Dialects of Cumberland and the English and Scotch Borders by John Rayson

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JOHN RAYSON

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MISCELLANEOUS
POEMS AND BALLADS

CHIEFLY IN THE
DIALECTS OF CUMBERLAND AND THE ENGLISH
AND SCOTCH BORDERS.

BY
JOHN RAYSON.

LONDON: PIPER, SYMPSON, AND SPENCE.
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EDDUCULVIL.

280. S. 146.

TO HIS IMPERIAL HIGHNESS

PRINCE LOUIS LUCIEN BONAPARTE,

AS A SLIGHT ACKNOWLEDGMENT

OF THE INTEREST HE TAKES IN THE LOCAL DIALECTS OF

ENGLAND,

THESE EFFUSIONS

OF A GUMERIAN MOUSE ARE RESPECTFULLY AND

GRATEFULLY INSCRIBED

BY THE

AUTHOR.

P R E F A C E .

THE Author begs leave to apologize in venturing to introduce his rhymes again to the notice of his numerous patrons, some of which appeared when he was little more than fourteen years of age, and he is not unconscious of their many imperfections; but as they have been repeated and sung by the companions of his youth, like early affections, he would not like to make any alterations in them; therefore these juvenile effusions, in their original form, must be given to the public along with those of mature age.

Clio's *Life of the Author*, as advertised with the *History of his Wrongs*, has extended to a larger form than was originally intended, and is considered by his advisers too voluminous for the present edition; and in its place a literary gentleman, whose name we are not at liberty to mention, has kindly supplied the following brief Memoir. Clio's *Life of the Author* is intended to be published at some future period, along with the *Satirical Ballads*, which will explain the several characters mentioned therein.

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MEMOIR OF THE AUTHOR.

JOHN RAYSON, the author of the accompanying poems and songs, was born about the beginning of the present century at Aglionby, in the parish of Warwick, within three miles of Carlisle. In this part of Cumberland his father's family resided for several centuries. On his mother's side he is descended from an old border family named Story, of the Laks, Kirklington. Nearly related to his maternal grandfather, was the heroine of the well-known border ballad, the "Water of Linc," who was drowned during a flood whilst attempting to cross the river Linc on her pony.

Whilst the subject of this memoir was yet young, his father removed to Newtown, in the parish of Irthington, near Brampton, having let his estate at Aglionby. Here young Rayson became a pupil of a son of the oldest inhabitant of Cumberland, Robert Bowman, who died in 1823, aged 119. After the lapse of a few years Mr. Rayson returned to Aglionby, desiring to bring up his three sons to agricultural pursuits. Young Rayson was therefore only allowed to attend school during winter, as is still common with country children, the summer being spent in the fields. During this early period of his life, Rayson it appears commenced writing verses, having even the boldness to show them to his teacher, who, he says, kindly pointed out the faults of his compositions, and encouraged him to proceed.