

**BALLADS AND
LAYS FROM
SCOTTISH HISTORY**

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Ballads and Lays from Scottish History by Norval Clyne

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NORVAL CLYNE

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BY

NORVAL CLYNE, A.M.

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THE present is an attempt to illustrate in a lyrical form a few of the principal events in the public history of Scotland, for which there is afforded an ample field without having recourse to local histories and traditions, or those of private families. No endeavour is made to imitate the style of the old Ballads; and if the following pieces exhibit any portion of the spirit that characterizes the ancient minstrelsy, they owe it to the stirring interest of their themes. The historical notices annexed to each piece are intended chiefly to save the necessity of elsewhere looking for dates, names, and other facts which could not well be intro-

duced into the poem itself; and, although at the risk of giving those paragraphs a bare and unattractive appearance, the strong temptation to enlarge and embellish their matter by the insertion of additional passages from history and ancient song, has been as much as possible resisted.

A plan similar to that adopted in the present collection seems the one best calculated for modern metrical history. By making some striking incident the subject of a distinct lyric, wherein the fancy of the poet shall not be allowed to interfere essentially with historical truth; and by supplying from the pages of a standard annalist whatever may be necessary to complete the general narrative, a varied and pleasing chronicle will be produced, worthy, in proportion to the merit of its execution, to become a companion to the greater work. Without entertaining any hope of being able fully to illustrate the annals of Scotland in this manner, the author of the limited volume now sub-

mitted to the public will feel proud indeed if its reception encourage him to add other pieces to the collection, and fresh links to the historic chain. In the meantime, he trusts that none of the poems in the series will be considered as displaying any undue national prejudice in reference to old points of discord between the two kingdoms now so happily united; but that it will readily be understood when merely contemporary feelings are represented, and what portions express such sentiments as naturally and justly arise on a retrospect of the Past.

EDINBURGH,
1st November 1844. }



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