

**ULTONIAN HERO-BALLADS
COLLECTED IN THE HIGHLANDS AND
WESTERN ISLES OF SCOTLAND,
FROM THE YEAR 1516, AND AT
SUCCESSIVE PERIODS TILL 1870**

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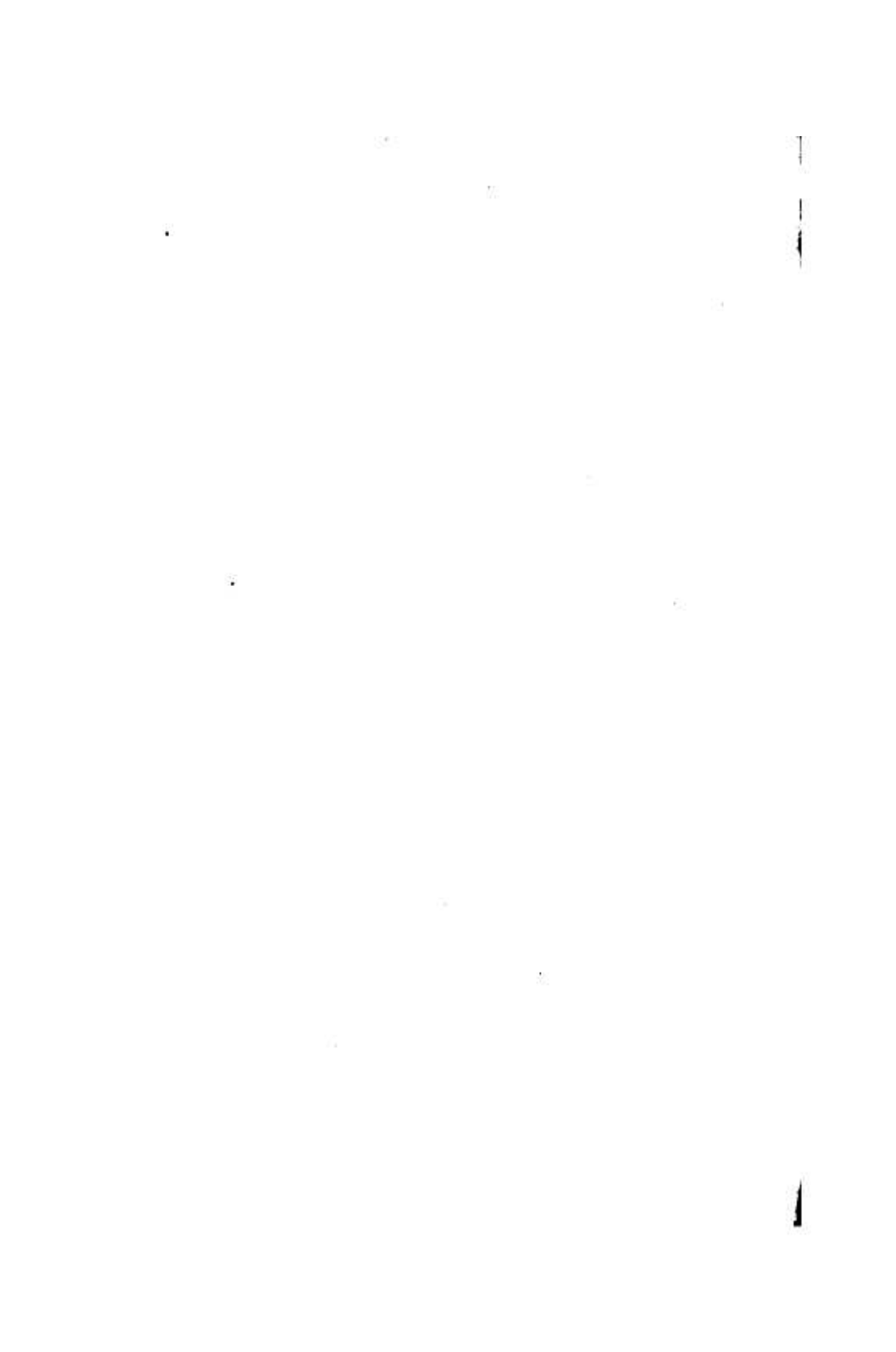
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HECTOR MACLEAN

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ULTONIAN HERO-BALLADS.



HECTOR MACLEAN.

Ultonian Hero-Ballads

Collected in the Highlands and Western Isles
of Scotland.

From the year 1510, and at successive periods till 1870.

*Arranged; Corrected Metrically and Orthographically;
and Translated into English*

BY

HECTOR MACLEAN, M.A.I.

(Under the Auspices of the Islay Association.)

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MDCCCXCII.

TO MY
ESTEEMED AND HONOURED FRIEND
John Crawford Graham, Esquire,
LAGAVULIN, ISLAY;
A GENTLEMAN CONNECTED WITH ISLAY.
BY
BIRTH AND ANCESTRY;
A WARM FRIEND OF THE LATE
John F. Campbell, of Islay,
AND THE
TRUSTED PATRON OF ISLAYMEN EVERYWHERE.
THIS WORK IS DEDICATED
WITH THE AUTHOR'S PROFOUND RESPECTS.



PREFACE.

Professor Zimmer tells us that early Irish history falls into three periods, the first reaching from pre-historic times, to about the year 350, A.D., the second to the end of the 7th century. No external activity on the part of the Irish is recorded, during the first period; the second, on the contrary, witnesses the harrying of the coasts of Britain, the establishment of the kingdom of Dalriada and the settlements in North and South Wales; whilst the third period is filled by the wars of the Northmen invaders. These historical periods are reflected in the heroic sagas, the oldest of which are concerned solely with intertribal conflicts, the heroes of which do not leave Ireland, the topography of which is coherent and accurate. The bulk of the sagas took shape, however, in the second,—the Irish viking period as it may be called. The heroes sally forth out of Ireland, especially to the western seaboard of Scotland, colonised as we know by the same Ulster tribes to whom

we owe the oldest heroic tales. The third, or Norse period, has also left its mark on the sagas; allusion is made to Norway, Norse warriors appear as foes or allies of the Irish chieftains. Nay more, a close examination of the sagas shows that they are in part corrupted by an admixture of elements derived from the Teutonic hero-tales.—*Archæological Review, Vol. ii. No. 2, p. 138.*

What relations Ireland had with foreign countries or how it was peopled we have nothing but fictitious and fabulous accounts. Ethnological research has succeeded in ascertaining that the Iberian race constituted its population as well as that of Britain before the Celts arrived.

The inhabitants of Donegal county and Kerry, who are of smaller stature than the other Irish, and swarthy in complexion are considered to be descendants of those old Iberians; and for similar reasons, the southern Welsh. The Spanish Basques from their stature and other physical characteristics are identified with them. The same race extended at one time from the north of Britain. Another tall race fair or red-haired and white-skinned, extended from Africa, through Spain and France westwards to the British Isles. Professor Sayce speaks of this race in his book on the Hittites, pp. 15-17, "The Hittites and Amorites were therefore