

**DESULTORY NOTES ON
JAMIESON'S
SCOTTISH DICTIONARY**

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Desultory notes on Jamieson's Scottish dictionary by J. B. Montgomerie-Fleming

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ON
JAMIESON'S
SCOTTISH DICTIONARY

BY
J. B. MONTGOMERIE-FLEMING
OF KELVINSIDE

GLASGOW AND EDINBURGH
WILLIAM HODGE & COMPANY
1899

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PREFATORY NOTE

THE subjoined letter to the editor of the *Glasgow Herald* will explain how these somewhat desultory and very incomplete Notes on *Jamieson* first came to be put together. When the editor of the *Herald* kindly gave them a place in his somewhat crowded paper, a number of my friends were kind enough to say that they thought some of the Notes were of value, and asked me whether I would not think of getting them printed in a collected form. I have accordingly done so.

These Notes do not claim to be anything like a revisal or correction of *Jamieson*, nor do I claim to have any very intimate acquaintance with pure Scotch. They are simply jottings made from time to time which, for the present purpose, I have somewhat amplified, and, as will be seen from many of the Notes, I am myself only seeking for information which I shall be glad to get from those who are better up in "guid braid Scots" than I am.

If these Notes, fragmentary though they be, give to some others the same pleasure as I have had in hunting up references in connection with them, I shall be amply repaid for any trouble I have taken in the matter.

Throughout these Notes frequent reference is made to the Historical English Dictionary, edited by Dr. James A. H. Murray and Mr. Henry Bradley, and printed at the Clarendon Press at the expense of the University of Oxford. So far as it has gone—that is, to the beginning of the letter “H”—I have found it a remarkably good *Scotch* dictionary.

This stupendous national undertaking is not receiving anything like the amount of support it merits. It is said of many a book that “no library is complete without it.” That can certainly be said, with the utmost truth, of this great work. I suppose most men with incomes of £1000 or £2000 a year and upwards would consider their libraries incomplete without a copy of the Encyclopædia Britannica, or some other very good Encyclopædia. Their

libraries are equally incomplete if they have not on their shelves the Historical English Dictionary. It is a patriotic duty to support this great national undertaking. The University of Oxford has hitherto supported it at a loss up to date of, I understand, about £50,000, but it is the duty of every man who can afford it to support it also, and he will be well repaid for the performance of that duty.

Of course, as a whole, it will be an expensive work, but it is coming out in parts, and the expense is distributed over a series of years.

The unbound parts I have at present are—

F—Fang, - - - -	(No date given),	£0 2 6
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Surely an expenditure such as this, spread over so many years, is not very killing to men with incomes such as I have indicated,

I hope many of those into whose hands these Notes may come will kindly interest themselves in this matter, and not only themselves become subscribers to this most valuable work, indispensable to every decent-sized library, but also try to induce their friends to become subscribers also. They will be more than amply repaid by the wealth of information to be found in its pages.

But that I fear being looked upon as a sort of "Importunate Widow," I would fain say almost as much in favour of "The English Dialect Dictionary, edited by Joseph Wright, M.A., Ph.D., Deputy Professor of Comparative Philology in the University of Oxford. London: Henry Frowde"—of which five parts have been published, embracing the letters A B C. I shall simply content myself with saying that this work also is deserving of every support and encouragement.

J. B. M.-F.

KELVINSIDE HOUSE, GLASGOW,
December, 1898.

JAMIESON'S SCOTTISH DICTIONARY.

(To the Editor of the *Glasgow Herald*.)

SIR,—A very interesting correspondence in your columns lately anent the meaning of the word "dowie" brought out some remarks with regard to the unsatisfactory character (perhaps I should rather say the want) of cross-references in this very useful, but far from complete, dictionary. We all know the story of the decent old Scotchman who, having unexpectedly succeeded to a considerable fortune, thought it the correct thing to go in for a library, and, being found one day deep in a dictionary, declared it to be "a rare interestin' wark, if it just had an index tae it." Well, Jamieson really almost requires an index.

I subjoin some notes I have from time to time made on my copy of Jamieson (the latest edition, published by Alexander Gardner, Paisley, 1879), which, though very incomplete, may perhaps be of interest to your readers, enabling them to make the corrections on their own copies of Jamieson. It is extremely provoking to have to hunt up and down for a word, when a simple cross-reference would save all that trouble. "Dowie" is a very good example. Surely it would have been a very easy thing, at vol. ii., p. 94, to have entered "Dowie, see Dolly, p. 77." I think far too few examples are given from that "well of *Scottish* undefyled," Miss Ferrier's most delightful novels, "Marriage," "Inheritance," and "Destiny," which are worth any score of the fescennine and ephemeral novels of the present day.—I am, &c.,

J. B. FLEMING.

