

TO  
HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF ARGYLL, K.T.. K.G., Etc.  
("MACALEN MOR.")

This Collection of new Marches, Reels and Strathspeys for the bagpipe, selected from the best submitted for competition at the Cowal Highland Gathering held annually under His Grace's distinguished patronage as Chieftain, is respectfully dedicated by the officials and committee of the Gathering.

At no former period in the history of the Great Highland Bagpipe have there been so many skilful executants of the national instrument as there are to-day, and probably this may be said likewise of students who devote themselves to the composition of new melodies of the character whereof the present Collection is typical. Not only among the mountains where the "piob mhor" has for centuries been specially the instrument of the Highland people, a solace for their social hours, the voice of elegy or lament, the stimulant for chivalry and war, but in every part of Scotland, and in every land where Scots have made their home, the bagpipe, classic-born, and little changed from the time of its first fashioning, has become more durably established in the affections of a race for whom its notes maintain the power to waken all the fondest, proudest, saddest memories of the past.

To sustain and extend the national interest in the bagpipe has been one of the first objects for which the Cowal Highland Gathering exists, and a desire to encourage and develop the composition of new music for the old instrument originated the competitions for which these pieces were submitted, and has led to the publication of this Collection

H. S. STRAFFORD, (*Sicly*).

Cowal Highland Gathering.