

PREFACE.

WHEN in one's youth one has learnt to play the pipes, however indifferently, "once a piper always a piper," in theory if not in practice. But when, in addition, one has learnt to love and appreciate, even attempted to play "Piobaireachd," one becomes an enthusiast past redemption!

Therefore, it should be remembered there are many who are not pipers, or who are but indifferent pipers, who can, nevertheless, appreciate and understand Piobaireachd as well as, if not better than, a number of our Champions who so ably play the music! In fact, there are possibly some who have studied its points, and history, to a closer extent than many of the very expert players of the day. Is it not too much the fashion in these times, to decry the opinions and ideas of those who may not rise to the front rank in competition playing? Such a practice is much to be deprecated, for the real enthusiast should always be prepared to listen to *both* sides of a question, and not adopt a bigoted and narrow view.

These remarks may savour somewhat of special pleading, but I make no special plea, except that my work may be considered in a logical and impartial spirit, free from unreasoning prejudice! It is in this hope, therefore, that I offer this work, the result of many years' study in a land where Piobaireachd is not often heard, and in the hope it may disclose fresh avenues for investigation, and thus, perhaps, help to the restoration of many of our old tunes, sadly mutilated.

I take this opportunity to record my great indebtedness to Mr. Simon Fraser, of Melbourne, Australia, for he has been good enough to write out for me, with his own hand, no less than eighty tunes, both in Staff Notation *and* Canntaireachd and, moreover, to give me much valuable information regarding MacCrimmon Canntaireachd. This is no common effort, seeing that Mr. Fraser has passed his eighty-first year, but when one realises that, as a young man, he often rode forty miles to obtain his lessons from Peter Bruce (who had emigrated from Glenelg), it is not surprising to find he still exhibits the steadfast purpose of his race.

I also express my appreciation of the work of the printers who have, through correspondence, fulfilled my ideas very satisfactorily. Had I been in Scotland during the preparation of the Plates, etc., I could possibly have saved them much extra work.

G. F. ROSS.

5 CLIVE STREET,
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