

## PREFACE.

---

IN preparing the following Collection, the Editor has been diligently occupied for many years; and when it is taken into consideration that Highland Pipe-Music has in a few cases only been committed to regular notation, the difficulty of his undertaking will be appreciated. He regrets that unavoidable obstacles have delayed the publication far beyond the period when its completion was anticipated; but he trusts that his subscribers will make allowance for the chief cause of its postponement,—an anxiety to render the work as perfect as possible. Its late appearance is the more to be deplored on his part, inasmuch as it has prevented him the distinguished honour of dedicating the volume to His late Most Excellent Majesty, who took so great an interest in all matters relative to Scotland, and was graciously pleased to permit this collection of Piobaireachds to be inscribed to William IV.

It is with feelings of pride that he now dedicates his labours to the Highland Society of London, whose patriotic encouragement of Gaëlic manners and customs is so well known, and whose patronage, so generously bestowed on this work, confers so much honour, and is so gratifying to the Editor.

He hopes the Public will treat with leniency any defects that may be perceived. He avails himself of the opportunity of returning his deep acknowledgments to those noblemen and gentlemen who have so freely encouraged the undertaking, and he has to offer deserved thanks to some literary friends who assisted him in researches for the historical portion of the work.

Finally, he will rejoice if this volume is esteemed a suitable though humble contribution to the yet scanty stock of Highland literature;—if it will preserve, in its native simplicity, the ancient music of Caledonia, and record some particulars, not uninteresting, respecting the origin of the different pieces, and the individuals who commemorated transactions in strains so peculiar and so full of spirit-stirring reminiscences.

EDINBURGH, July 1838.

AONGHAS MACAIDH.