

**EXPLOITS AND ANECDOTES OF
THE SCOTTISH GYPSIES:
WITH TRAITS OF THEIR ORIGIN,
CHARACTER AND MANNERS**

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Exploits and Anecdotes of the Scottish Gypsies: With Traits of Their Origin, Character and manners by William Chambers

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WILLIAM CHAMBERS

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THE FRAY AT LAURIES DEN.
(Stricken lady's Right)

EXPLOITS AND ANECDOTES
OF THE
SCOTTISH GYPSIES

*WITH TRAITS OF THEIR ORIGIN, CHARACTER,
AND MANNERS*

BY
WILLIAM CHAMBERS, LL.D.

Originally Printed in 1821.

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Minot fund

THE original edition of this little volume, one of Dr William Chambers' earliest literary efforts, has long been of interest to collectors of scarce books, and so keen has the competition for copies become, that in recent years the few that have appeared for sale have brought upwards of three pounds.

Besides its rarity, however, the book has the more substantial attraction of presenting a popular subject in a very popular form. The pages are full of curious anecdotes of the Scottish Gypsies, told in a very enter-

taining fashion, and the author informs us in his *Memoir* that its publication not only brought him "a few pounds," but "the acquaintance of a few persons interested in that wayward class of the community."

It originally appeared in 1821, and is now reprinted for the first time, the text being given exactly as it left its author's hands, and the original frontispiece reproduced in exact facsimile.

To meet alike the requirements of the bibliophile and the general reader, a very limited number of copies on fine paper, and a larger number in a less expensive form, have been issued.

May 1886.

INTRODUCTION.

GRELLMANN, author of an "Inquiry concerning the Gypsies," endeavours to show that they came originally from Hindostan. The chief basis of his theory, however, is no other than that very dubious one, a similarity of language. He compares the gypsies with the Parias, the lowest class of the Indians, and enumerates many circumstances in which they agree. He conjectures that the cause of their emigration from their country was, the war of Timur Beg in India. In the years 1408 and 1409 this conqueror ravaged India; and the progress of his arms was attended with devastation and cruelty. All who made resistance were destroyed; those who fell into

the enemies' hands were made slaves ; of these very slaves 100,000 were put to death. As on this occasion an universal panic took place, what could be more natural than that a great number of terrified inhabitants should endeavour to save themselves by flight ? Dr Clarke, and various other writers, seem to be of the same opinion in regard to the Indian origin of the gypsies ; while Salmon, the English geographer, and others, have endeavoured to prove, by satisfactory evidence, that the gypsies came from Egypt. As it would be almost endless to enter into details on this subject, which would merely end in uncertainty and doubt, we will proceed to mention, that from whatever part of the world the gypsies came, they made their first appearance in Europe about the beginning of the fifteenth century. They entered Bohemia and Hungary from the east, travel-