

**SCOTTISH HISTORICAL
AND ROMANTIC BALLADS,
CHIEFLY ANCIENT. IN
TWO VOLUMES, VOL. II**

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Scottish Historical and Romantic Ballads, Chiefly Ancient. In Two Volumes, Vol. II by John Finlay

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JOHN FINLAY

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TWO VOLUMES, VOL. II**



.SCOTTISH
HISTORICAL AND ROMANTIC
BALLADS,
CHIEFLY ANCIENT;

WITH
EXPLANATORY NOTES AND A GLOSSARY.

TO WHICH ARE PREFIXED
SOME REMARKS ON THE EARLY STATE OF ROMANTIC
COMPOSITION IN SCOTLAND:

BY
JOHN FINLAY.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. II.

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JAMIE DOUGLAS.

THIS Lament, which is supposed to be delivered by the heroine in person, was composed, I apprehend, on the wife of James Douglas, Earl of Morton, the unfortunate regent of Scotland. "Of his (Morton's) marriage we have told before, how he was married to —— Douglas his wife, and daughter to the Earl of Morton. She bare to him diverse children, (ten as is reported,) but none of them lived long, but died all young, ere they came to perfect age. She herself became distracted of her wits, and would not company with her husband, alledging he was not

her husband, but that he was Master Archibald Douglas, who was brother to William Douglas of Whittinghame; that her husband was dead, and that Master Archibald Douglas had killed him. She was kept and entertained by him as became her place, and had her residence at Tantallon; but he, being deprived of her company, loosed the reins (reins) to others, and begat three natural children." *HUME of Godscroft*, p. 278.

Morton's incontinence was indeed so notorious, that it was one of the charges exhibited against him on his trial; and so far from denying any part of it, he answered, "Amongst all the other sinners, I confesse myself to be one of the gretest and filthiest abusers of my bodie in the pleasures of the flesh." *HOLINSHED. Exam. and Answers of Morton.*

I have collated three MS. copies of this ballad for the present edition. A fragment, consisting of four stanzas, first made its appearance.

in Herd's Collection. It is scarcely necessary to add, that it, in common with most others, is very incorrect in many circumstances of the story. The fourth stanza, with little variation, is said by Dr Percy (*Reliques*, vol. iii. p. 144.) to belong to some editions of the fine Scottish dirge, "*O waly waly up the bank.*"

JAMIE DOUGLAS.

WHEN I fell sick, an' very sick,
An' very sick, just like to die,
A gentleman of good account
He cam on purpose to visit me ;
But his blackie whispered in my lord's ear,
He was owre lang in the room wi' me.

“ Gae, little page, an' tell your lord,
Gin he will come and dine wi' me,
I'll set him on a chair of gold,
And serve him on my bended knee.”