

**SPECIMENTS OF  
SCOTTISH LITERATURE,  
1325-1835**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649126552

Specimens of Scottish literature, 1325-1835 by W. M. Metcalfe

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**W. M. METCALFE**

**SPECIMENTS OF  
SCOTTISH LITERATURE,  
1325-1835**



# Specimens of Scottish Literature

1325-1835

WITH INTRODUCTION  
NOTES AND GLOSSARY

BY

W. M. METCALFE, D.D.

Editor of "The Scottish Legends of the Saints"; Author of "Supplementary  
Dictionary of the Scottish Language", &c.

BLACKIE AND SON LIMITED

50 OLD BAILEY LONDON

GLASGOW AND BOMBAY

1913

PR  
8635  
M4



994294

## PREFACE

---

In this work I have made an attempt to illustrate the character and history of Scottish Literature by a series of specimens taken from each of its three periods.

To procure satisfactory texts has not been always easy. Some of those made use of I have had to revise and edit, and several of them have been taken by permission from the publications of the Scottish Text Society, for which I tender my thanks.

In the Notes and Glossary an effort has been made to make the extracts printed thoroughly intelligible to those who are not acquainted with what Abacuck Bysset, improving upon Gavin Douglas, called his "awin maternal Scottis language", but are acquainted with English.

The book appeals more directly to Scotsmen, and many of them I trust will read it. They will find in it many points of interest and an easy means of studying their own national and by no means unbrilliant literature in all the three great stages of its history.

Though not specially prepared for them, I hope that the book will find its way into our higher educational institutions, in which Scottish literature has been, for the most part, neglected. Surely Scottish students should learn to read the older literature of their country with as much ease as they read the writings of Langland, Chaucer, and Gower.



# CONTENTS

---

	Page
INTRODUCTION . . . . .	9
I. EARLY SCOTS	
OUTLINE OF GRAMMATICAL FORMS . . . . .	14
1. OLD SCOTS LAWS . . . . .	21
2. JOHN BARBOUR	
(a) Andro Wyntown's Extract from <i>The Bruce</i> . . . . .	24
(b) The same passage from Ramsay's Transcript . . . . .	26
3. SCOTTISH LEGENDS OF THE SAINTS	
(a) The Conversion of a King by S. Ninian . . . . .	29
(b) SS. Machor and Devinik . . . . .	30
(c) The Miracles wrought at the Tomb of S. Machor . . . . .	32
4. RECORDS OF THE BURGH OF ABERDEEN . . . . .	34
5. THE CRAFT OF DEYING . . . . .	35
6. ACTS OF THE PARLIAMENT OF SCOTLAND	
(a) The Payment of Taxes . . . . .	37
(b) The Destruction of Wolves . . . . .	38
II. MIDDLE SCOTS	
OUTLINE OF GRAMMATICAL FORMS . . . . .	39
1. ROBERT HENRYSON	
(a) <i>The Cock and the Jewel</i> . . . . .	42
(b) <i>The Trial of the Fox</i> . . . . .	46
(c) <i>The Abbey Walk</i> . . . . .	48

	Page
2. WILLIAM DUNBAR	
(a) The Ballad of Kynd Kittok - - - -	51
(b) Ane Ballat of Our Lady - - - -	53
(c) No Tressour availis without Glaidness - - - -	55
(d) Of the Changes of Lyfe - - - -	57
3. GAVIN DOUGLAS	
The Proloug of the First Book of Eneados - - - -	59
4. MURDOCH NISBET	
(a) Parable of the Prodigal Son - - - -	62
(b) The True Vine - - - -	64
5. BURGHE RECORDS OF ABERDEEN	
(a) The Procession on Candlemas Day - - - -	65
(b) Corpus Christi - - - -	66
6. HECTOR BOECE	
(a) The White Bulls - - - -	68
(b) Our Eldaris - - - -	70
7. JOHN BELLENDEN	
How Horace Cocles defended the Brig of Tiber - - - -	72
8. THE COMPLAYNT OF SCOTLAND	
(a) From the Prolog to the Kedar - - - -	75
(b) The Fyrst Cheptovr - - - -	76
9. SIR DAVID LYNDSEY	
(a) Complaynt of the Commounweill of Scotland - - - -	78
(b) The Blak Viritic - - - -	81
10. HAMILTON'S CATECHISM	
(a) The First Command - - - -	82
(b) The Third Command - - - -	83
11. JOHN KNOX	
St. Giles' Day (1558) - - - -	85
12. LINDSAY OF PITSCOTTIE	
Ane Mirakill Sen - - - -	88
13. ALEXANDER MONTGOMERIE	
The Night is neir Gone - - - -	90
14. BURGHE RECORDS OF EDINBURGH	
(a) Silver Wark - - - -	92
(b) Wobsteris, the Kirk of S. Giles - - - -	93
(c) The Sabbath Day - - - -	94
(d) Proclamatio, trubulance in the Kirk - - - -	95

# CONTENTS

vii

## III. MODERN SCOTS

	Page
OUTLINE OF GRAMMATICAL FORMS . . . . .	97
1. TAK YOUR AULD CLOAK ABOUT YE . . . . .	98
2. JAMES MELVILL	
Flight by Sea . . . . .	101
3. ROBERT BAILLIE	
(a) The General Assembly at Glasgow (1638) . . . . .	105
(b) The Accusation of Lord Strafford . . . . .	107
4. GILDEROV . . . . .	109
5. JOHN SPALDING	
The Execution of Strafford . . . . .	113
6. FAIR HELEN OF KIRKCONNEL . . . . .	116
7. THERE'S NAE LUCK ABOUT THE HOUSE . . . . .	117
8. ALLAN RAMSAY	
(a) Katy's Answer . . . . .	120
(b) Up in the Air . . . . .	121
(c) Patie's Song . . . . .	122
9. KARE WILLIE DROWNED IN YARROW . . . . .	124
10. ROBERT BURNS	
(a) The Twa Dogs . . . . .	125
(b) The Cotter's Saturday Night . . . . .	126
(c) John Anderson my Jo . . . . .	130
(d) Bessy and her Spinnin Wheel . . . . .	131
(e) Bannockburn . . . . .	132
11. WILLIAM MOTHERWELL	
Jeanie Morrison . . . . .	133
NOTES . . . . .	137
GLOSSARY . . . . .	189
INDEX OF PROPER NAMES . . . . .	225