

**A MEMOIR OF JOHN
ELDER, ENGINEER
AND SHIPBUILDER**

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A Memoir of John Elder, Engineer and Shipbuilder by W. J. Macquorn Rankine

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W. J. MACQUORN RANKINE

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JOHN ELDER
ENGINEER AND SHIPBUILDER

BY
W. J. MACQUORN RANKINE

WILLIAM BLACKWOOD AND SONS
EDINBURGH AND LONDON
MDCCLXXI

ADVERTISEMENT.

THE Author of this Memoir desires to express his grateful sense of obligation to the family, friends, and business connections of the late Mr ELDER, for the ample information which they have supplied to him, and for the documents to which they have given him access.

W. J. M. R.

GLASGOW UNIVERSITY, 1870.

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MEMOIR OF JOHN ELDER.

THE earliest accounts of the family of Elder show it to have flourished in the county of Kinross, in the east of Scotland, during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. The leading branch of the family seems to have been that which possessed the estate of Arlarie, near the town of Milnathort. There are on record the names of two John Elders of Balbughtie, cadets of the family of Arlarie, one of whom lived in the sixteenth, and the other in the seventeenth century, both forefathers of the subject of this Memoir.

The line of his direct ancestors for nearly two centuries affords a remarkable example of a fact which is more common than is usually supposed—the hereditary transmission of skill and talent; for they all practised that art from which (as Fairbairn tells us) mechanical engineering has sprung—that