

Willie Alexander

Strathspey

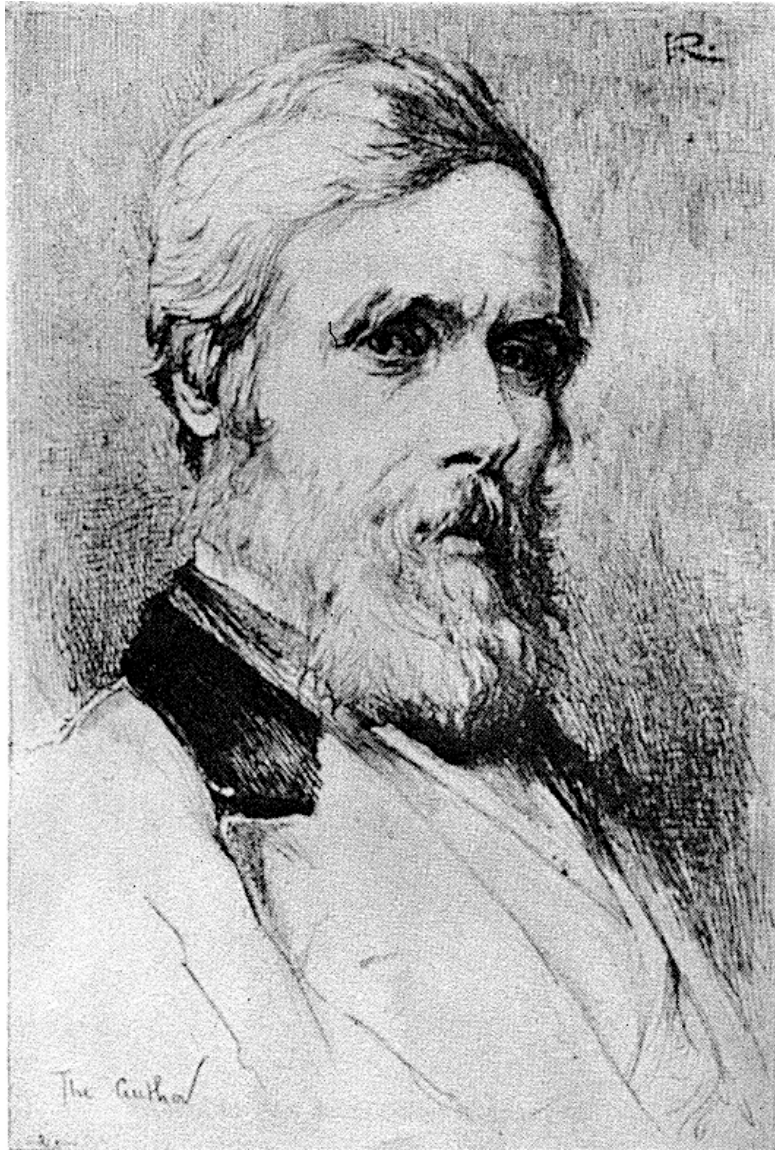


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Reel



Willie Alexander (from the previous page) : This paired strathspey and reel was written for the launch of his “lost” novel *The Laird of Drammochdyle and his Contemporaries* at a presentation in Bissett’s Bookshop in the Upperkirkgate of Aberdeen in 1986. It was played by the Buchan Fiddlers led by James Duncan, uncle of pipers Ian and Gordon. The folksinger Lizzie Higgins sang. I was interested in treating an idea in two different tempi, which I have seen done in piping sources but not very much since the days of David Glen. I was particularly drawn by the idea of the accented triplets in the strathspey, which are a characteristically North East effect.



Engraving of William Alexander (1826-1894) from his novel Johnny Gibb of Gushetneuk, a classic work of Scottish literature