


TO
THE NOBLEMEN AND GENTLEMEN
OF
THE HIGHLAND SOCIETIES
OF
LONDON AND SCOTLAND.



THE Publisher of the following Work being little known to the World, and making an experiment, too, with regard to our Ancient Pipe Music, hitherto unattempted, or, at least, unaccomplished, felt the danger of ushering it to the Public without sanction or patronage ; and, his labours having been devoted to a strictly National Object, he knew no where to turn, with so much propriety, or so much hope, as to those Distinguished Bodies, which boast, not only of almost all the rank, and all the talent, and all the worth, of the Country, but whose exertions have been so assiduously and so successfully employed for the interest and prosperity of Scotland.

He therefore respectfully begs leave to Dedicate this Volume to THE HIGHLAND SOCIETIES OF LONDON AND SCOTLAND, conscious, that if, under their auspices, it fails, it can be worthy of success under no other.

To those, and it is hoped they will be few, who may consider the Music as unworthy of preservation, or adaptation to other instruments, for its own sake, it will at least be curious, as acquainting them with the Strains that delighted and animated our Warlike Ancestors, and of which many had their origin in the most interesting circumstances of dangerous adventure, and romantic attachment ; and to those who quarrel with the execution of the undertaking, it may occur, in mitigation, that it was a patriotic feeling that prompted the

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attempt to redeem, in some degree, from neglect and oblivion what was so dear to our Fathers, and perhaps not unwelcome to many of us, not only from such associations, but from natural taste.

In conclusion, the Publisher has only to add to the general voice, his heartfelt wish, that both Societies may continue to be cheered in the progress of their unwearied labours, by the increasing prosperity of their Country, and the consciousness of their having already done so much to promote it; and to say how proud he is, at once to grace his undertaking with such names, and to subscribe himself,

GENTLEMEN,

Your humble and grateful Servant,

DONALD MACDONALD.