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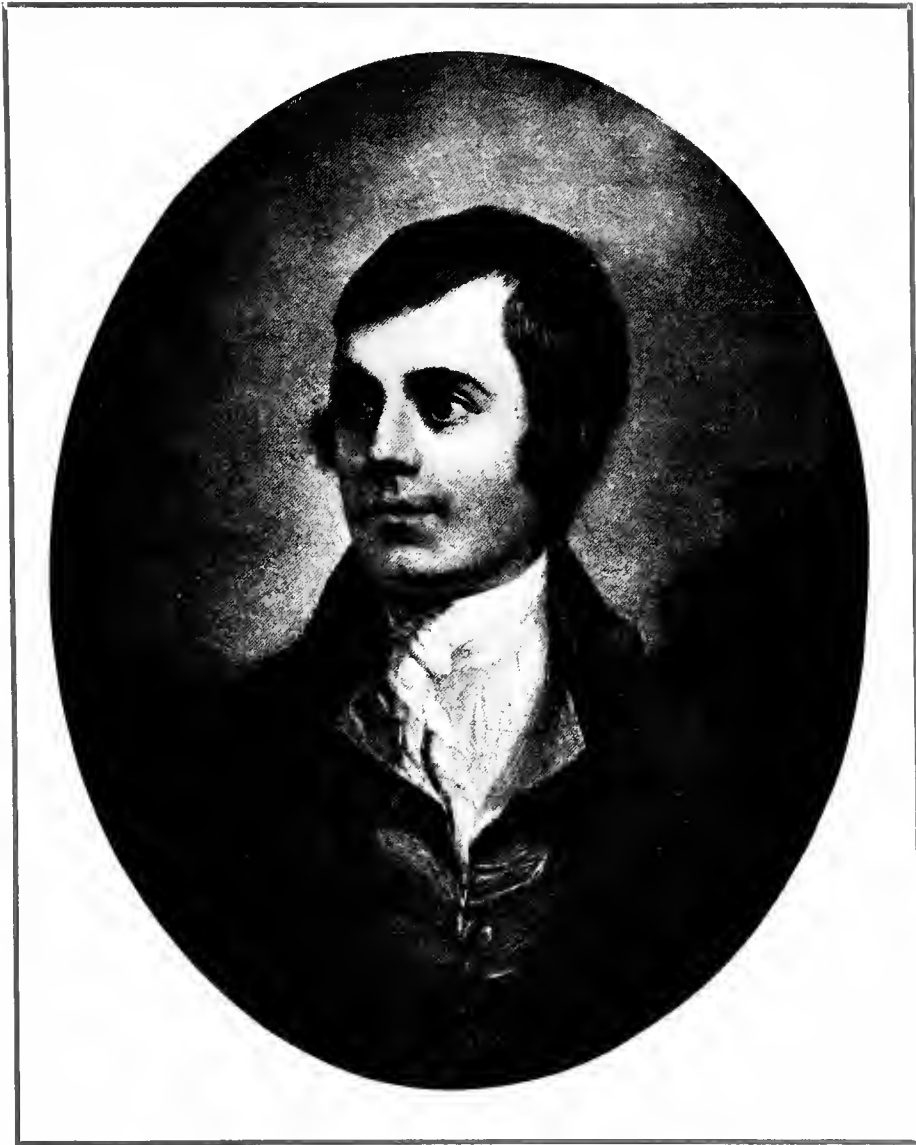
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PART I

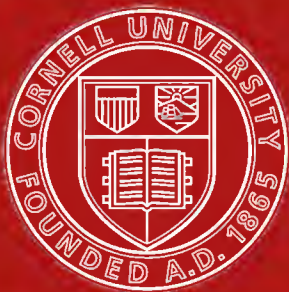
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ROBERT BURNS

*(From the painting by Alexander Nasmyth, in the National Portrait Gallery,
London)*

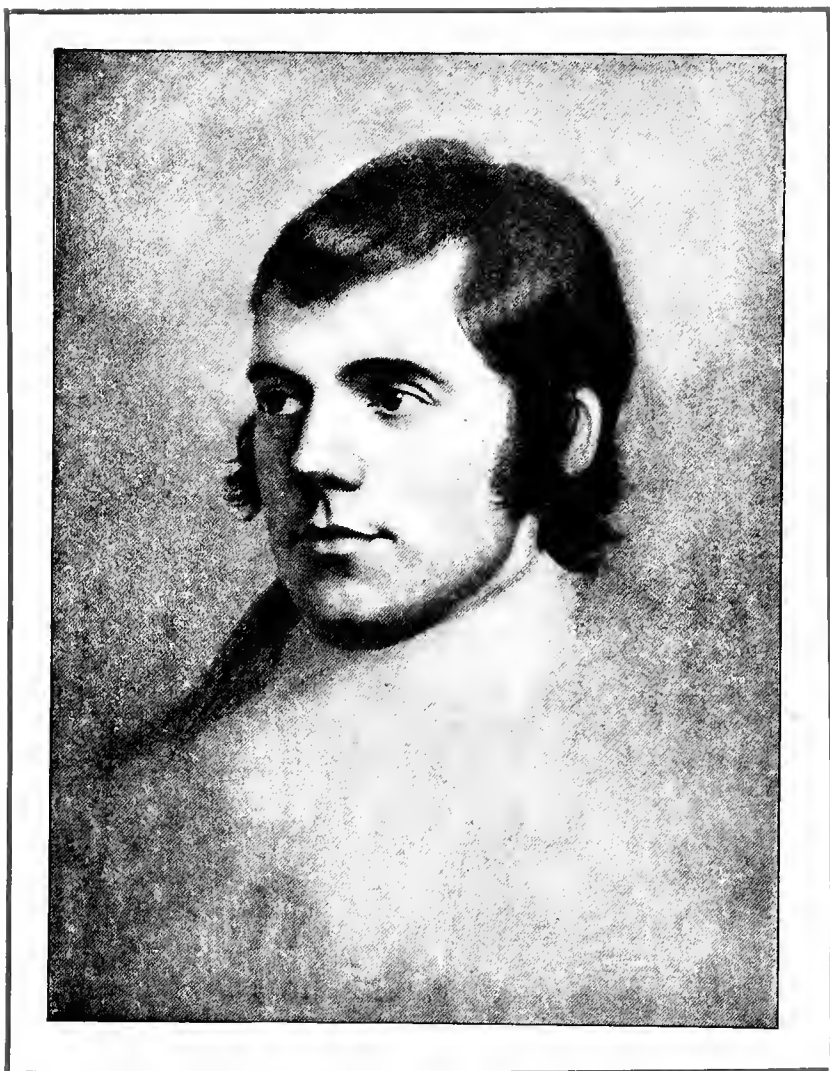


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ROBERT BURNS

(From the original red crayon drawing by Archibald Skirving, and considered an excellent portrait)



The Mother of Robert Burns
(From a water-color sketch)



Elizabeth Hyslop Burns (Mrs. Thomson)
(Daughter of the poet)



BURNS' COTTAGE

(From a painting by Sam Bough, R.S.A.)

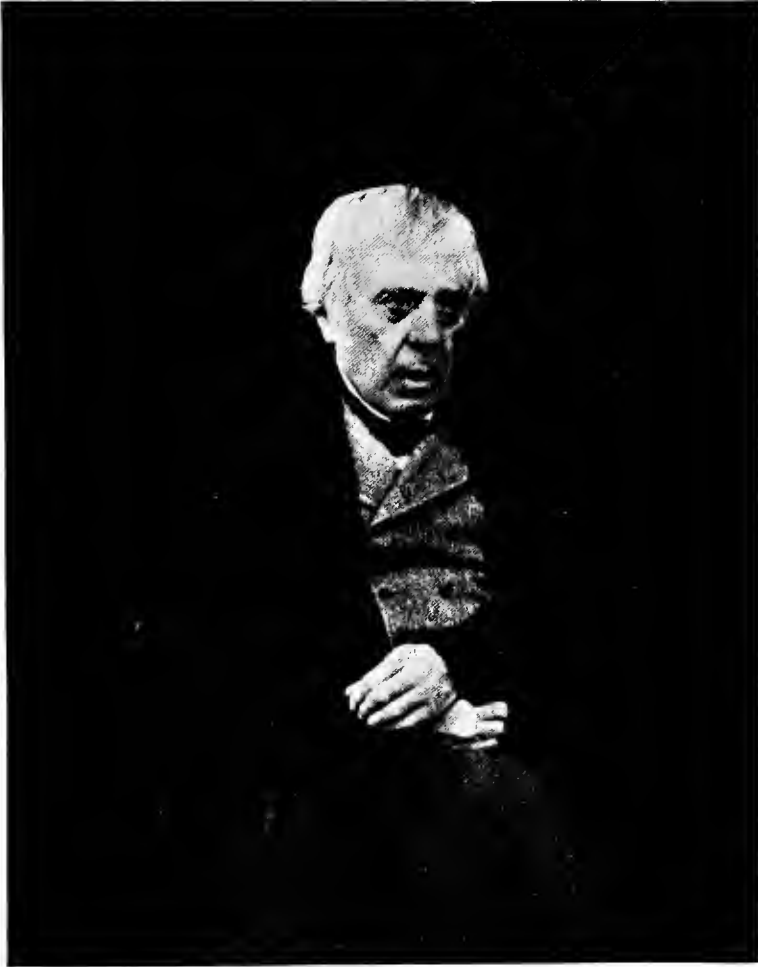
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PART II

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ROBERT BURNS
(The eldest son of the poet)



ISABELLA BURNS (MRS. BEGG)
(The poet's youngest sister)



BONNIE JEAN AND GRANDCHILD

(From a painting by S. M'Kenzie, S.A.)



ROBERT BURNS

GILBERT BURNS

(Silhouettes of the poet and his brother)



Lieut.-Col. James Glencairn Burns
(Fourth son of the poet)



Col. W. Nicol Burns
(Third son of the poet)

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PART III

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Holy Willie's Prayer

And find the body in a fit to pray ^{hope}

O Thou that in the heavens does dwell

Wha, as it pleases best Thyself,

Sends one to heaven and ten to h-ll,

A' for Thy glory;

And no for any quid o' it ^{o' they're done before Thee}

I bless and praise Thy matchless might,

When thousands Thou has left in night,

O that I am here before Thy fight,

O for gifts and grace,

A burning and a shining light

To a' this place.

What was I, or my generation,

O that I should get such exaltation?

I, who deserv'd most just damnation

O for broken laws,

Sax thousand years ere my creation

Thro' Adam's cause.

Yet I am here, a chosen sample,

To show Thy grace is great and ample;

I'm here, a pillar o' Thy temple,

Strong as a rock;

A guide, a rule and example

To a' Thy flock.

But yet, O Lord, confess I must

At times I'm fash'd wi' fleshly lust;

And sometimes too in worldly trust

The self gets in.

Dear Brother

It will be no very pleasing news to you to be told that I am dangerously ill, & not likely to get better. — An inveterate rheumatism has reduced me to such a state of debility, & my appetite is totally gone, so that I can scarce stand on my legs. — I have been a week at sea-bathing, & I will continue there or in a friend's house in ^{the} country all the summer. — I hope I help my wife & children, if I am taken from their head! — They will be poor indeed. — I have contracted one or two serious debts, partly from my illness these many months & partly from too much thoughtlessness as to expense when I came to town that will cut in too much on the little I have them in your hands.

Remember me to my Mother. — Yours

July 10.th } 1796.

R BURNS

Letter from Robert Burns to his brother Gilbert

sixth part of the second part, the place where these three syllables will always occur, that the four semiquavers usually sung as one syllable, will with the greatest propriety divide into two thus



For nature make her what she is, and so, &c. &c.

MS. B. 1. 1. 1.

At Scars - in
 Saw ye Bonnie Lesley
 as
 My cup's o' wisdom on the
 and -

Mr George Thompson

Trustee Office
 Edin.

I have hitherto deferred the sublime, more pathetic airs, until more leisure, as they will take & deserve, a greater effort. However, they are all put into thy hands, as clay into the hands of the Potter; to make one vessel to honor, & another to dishonor. — Farewell.

Robt Burns

From the correspondence of Burns with George Thompson, embodying the most celebrated of the poet's songs

Robert Burns was born at Alloway in
the parish of Ayr - Jan. 25th 1759 -
Jean Armour his wife was born at Mauchline
Feb. 27th 1767 -

Sept. 3. 1786 there born to them twins, Robert, their
eldest son, at a quarter past Noon & Jean, since
dead at fourteen months old. - March 3, ¹⁷⁸⁷ were born
to them twins again, two daughters, who died within a
few days after their birth. - August 18th 1789 was
born to them, Francis, Wallace, so named after
Mr. Dunlop of Dunlop, he was born a quarter
before seven, forenoon. - April 9th 1791, between
three & four in the morning, was born to them
William, Nicol; so named after Will. Nicol of the
High School, Edin. - November 21st 1792, at
a quarter past Noon, was born to them Elizabeth, Riddel,
so named after Mrs. Robt. Riddel of Glenriddel.
James Glencairn born 12th May
1794 named after the late Earl of
Glencairn

Maxwell. Born 26th July 1796 the day of his
Father's Funeral. So named after Dr. Maxwell
the Physician who attended the Poet in his last illness
Invented by R. A. Burns 9th April 1797

The Brigs of Ayr. — A true Story
Inscribed to John Ballantine Esq: 441.

The simple Bard rough at the rustic plough,
Learning his tuneful trade from every bough,
The chanting Linnet, or the mellow Thrush,
Waiving the setting sun sweet in the green-thorn bush,
The soaring Lark, the perching Redbreast shrill,
Or deep-ton'd Crows gray, wild-whistling o'er the hill,
Shall he, nurs'd in the Pedant's lowly shed,
To hardy Independence bravely bred,
By early Poverty to Hardship field'd,
And train'd to arms in stern Misfortune's field,
Shall he be guilty of their hirling crimes,
The feeble, mercenary Swifts of rhymes?
On labor hard the ~~frangere~~ dose,
With all the venal soul of dedicating Prose?
No! though his arth'g strainings ~~scald~~ mangle his fingers,
And throws his hand uncouthly o'er the strings;
He glows with all the spirit of the Bard,
Fame, honest Fame, his great his dear reward.
Still, if some Patron's generous care he trace
Skill'd in the secret, to bestow with grace;
When B—— befriends his humble name,
And hands the rustic stranger up to fame,
With heart-felt throes his grateful bosom swells
The godlike bliss, to give, alone excels.

Fac-simile of the original MS. of "The Brigs of Ayr"

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PART IV

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my much esteemed Friend -
- my Dunlop of Dunlop -
- ———— Robt Burns

To Patrick Miller Esquire
of Dalserwinton ————
from his much indebted ^{servt} humble
The Author

To Elizabeth Burns -
- her Father's gift -
The Author

To Mr. Finlayson —
A Message of roots & Friendship, well watered with many
a bottle of good WHISKY —

ROBT. BURNS

Why not the hidden treasure
Thine's feelings can bestow;
Charms that vibrate sweetest pleasure,
Thru'll the deepest notes of woe.

1. Inscription from Presentation Volume
2. Stanza from a Burns poem in the poet's handwriting

To Miss Jessy Lewis
These be the volumes, Jessy fair,
And with them take the Poet's prayer; —
That Fate may in her fairest page,
With every kindest, best presage
Of future bliss, enroll thy name;
While native worth, & spotless fame,
And watchful caution to beware
Of ill, but chief man's felons made;
All blameless joys on earth we find,
And all the treasures of the mind.
These be thy guardian & reward!
So prays thy faithful friend, the Bard.

R Burns

June 26th 1796

à Mad. M^{lle} J. LEWIS —

Un petit gage de l'Amitié. —

R Burns

grateful attachment to him, which was indeed so strong that it persuaded my very soul, & was entwined with the thread of my existence; so soon as the Prince's friends had got in, (& every dog you know has his day) my getting forward in the ^{business} ~~business~~ would have been an easier ^{business} than otherwise it will be. — O though this was a consummation devoutly to be wished, yet, thank Heaven, I can live & rhyme, as I am; & as to my boys, poor, little fellows! if I cannot place them on as high an elevation in life, as I could wish; I shall, if I am favoured so much of the Disposer of events as to see that period, take care to fix them on as broad and independant basis as possible. — Among the many wise adages which have been treasured up by our Scottish Ancestors, this is one of the best — "Better be the head o' the Commonality, as the tail o' the Gentry".

But I am got on a subject, which however interesting to me, is of no manner of consequence to you; so I shall give you a short poem on the other page, & close this with assuring you how sincerely I have the honor to be
Sir, your obliged & ever grateful, humble servt.
Robt. Burns

Letter from Burns to Dr. Moore about various matters: Captain Grose, "Zeluco," Judas Iscariot, Queen Elizabeth, "a rocky-hearted, perfidious succubus," etc., dated Ellisland, near Dumfries, 28th February, 1791

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PART V

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Anno Domini 1900**

P O E M S

ASCRIBED TO

ROBERT BURNS,

THE AYRSHIRE BARD,

NOT CONTAINED IN ANY EDITION OF HIS WORKS

HITHERTO PUBLISHED.

GLASGOW,
PRINTED BY CHAPMAN & LANG,
FOR THOMAS STEWART, BOOKSELLER AND STATIONER.

1801.

P O E M S.

CHIEFLY IN THE

SCOTTISH DIALECT.

BY

ROBERT BURNS.

EDINBURGH:
PRINTED FOR THE AUTHOR,
AND SOLD BY WILLIAM CREECH.

M,DCC,LXXXVII.

Title Page of early edition of Burns' Poems

*One of our ungrateful men, that wren he thought,
And yet can blame the author of the plague!*



*O thou, my eldest brother in my garden,
By God my eldest brother in the night!
O thou, my eldest brother in the night!
O thou, my eldest brother in the night!
O thou, my eldest brother in the night!
O thou, my eldest brother in the night!
O thou, my eldest brother in the night!
O thou, my eldest brother in the night!*

P O E M S
ON
Robert Burns

VARIOUS SUBJECTS,

BY
ROBERT FERGUSSON.

IN TWO PARTS.
THE SECOND EDITION.

EDINBURGH
Printed by T. RUDDIMAN:
For J. BELL, J. DICKSON, W. CRECH, C. ELIOT,
P. ANDERSON, and J. SIMPSON.
M, DCC, LXXXIII.

Presentation Copy of Fergusson's Poems with inscription by Burns

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PART VI

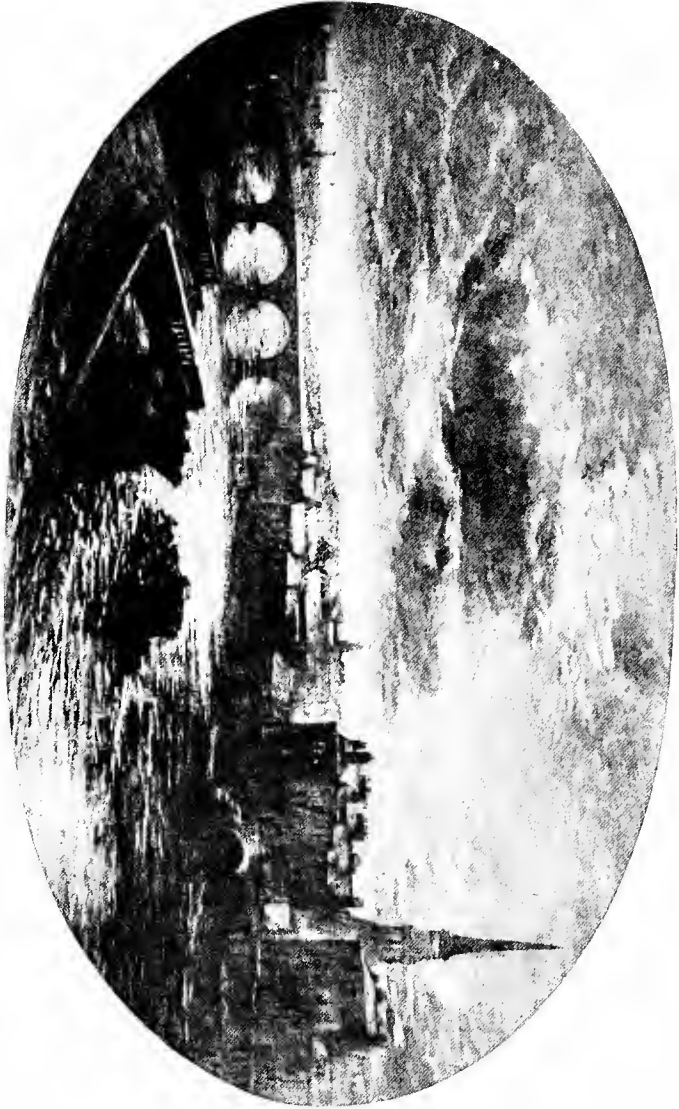
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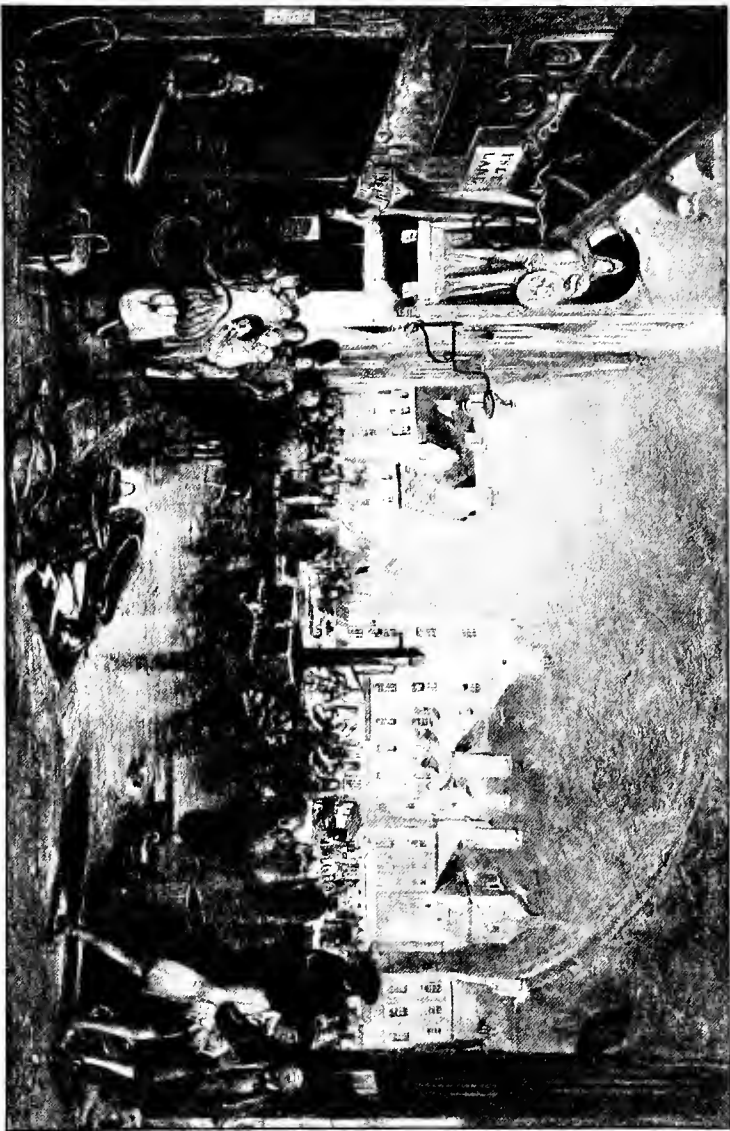
*Arm-chair (the property of Queen Victoria) made from an oak beam taken from
"Alloway's Auld Haunted Kirk"*



Interior of Burns' Cottage
(From a painting by Robert Alexander, R.S.A.)



The Brigs of Ayr
(From a painting by W. E. Lockhart, R.S.A.)



The Market Cross, Ayr, as it was in the days of Burns
(From a painting by D. O. Hill, R.S.A.)

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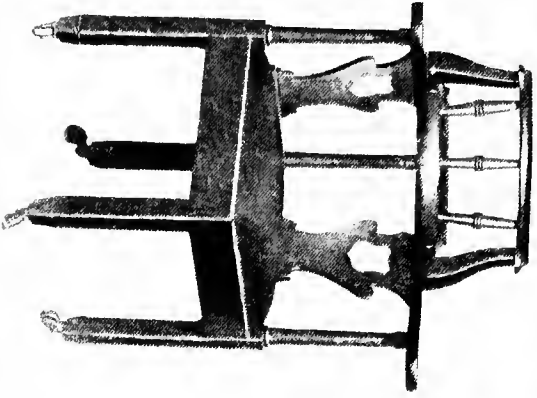
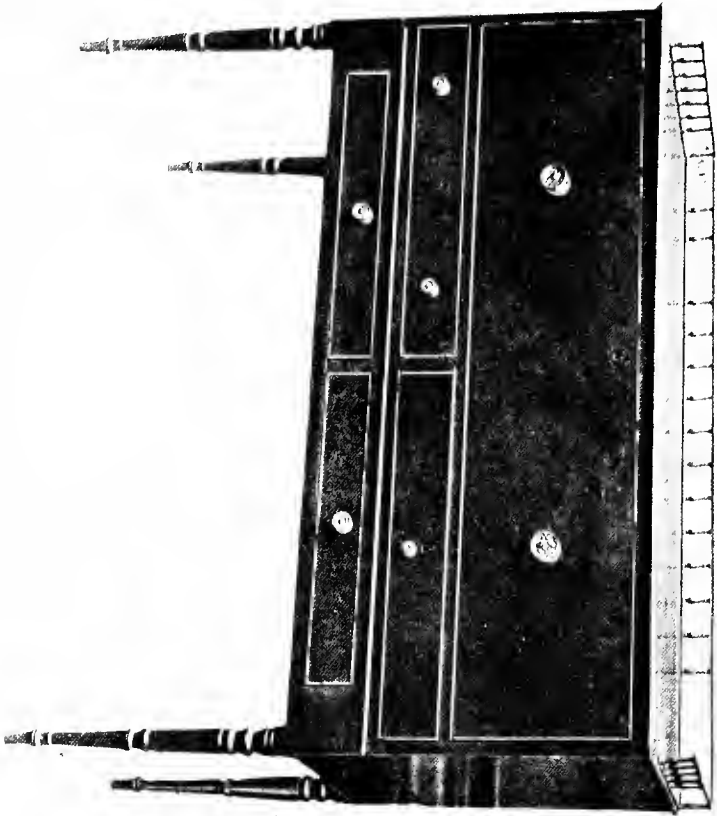
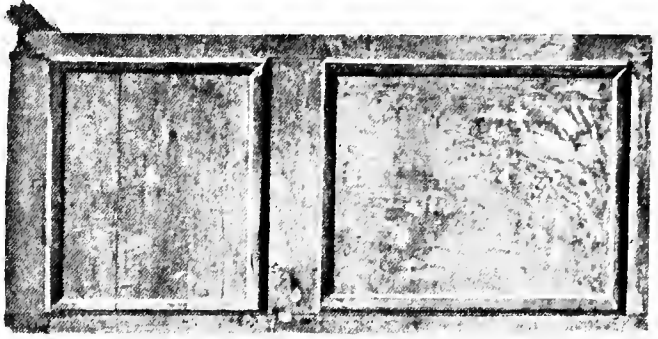
Burns' Relics including "The Auld Nick Horn"



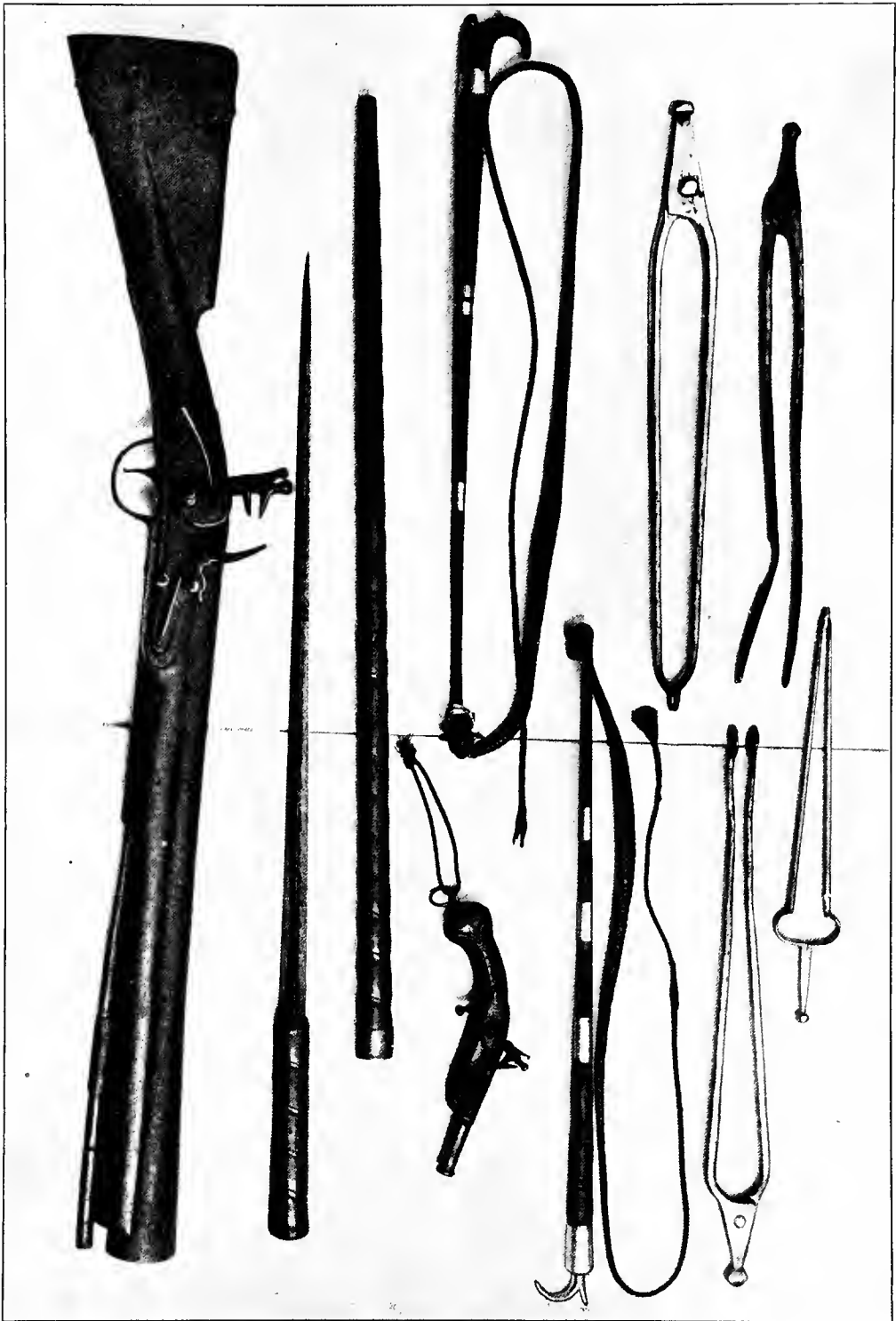
Iron Pot and Furniture which belonged to Burns



Draught-board used by Gilbert and Robert Burns at Lochlee. Wooden Snuff-box, with scenes from "Willie brewed" on the lid; on one side, in the poet's handwriting, "Yours ever, Robt. Burns."



Burns' Relics, including the Excise Chest



Blunderbuss which belonged to Burns. Swordstick which belonged to Burns. This stick was presented by Burns to John Richmond. It is referred to in one of the poet's letters. Flintlock Pistol marked on the stock "R. Burns, 1790." Whip used by the poet. It was used by Burns in his rides as an exciseman, on his Highland tour.

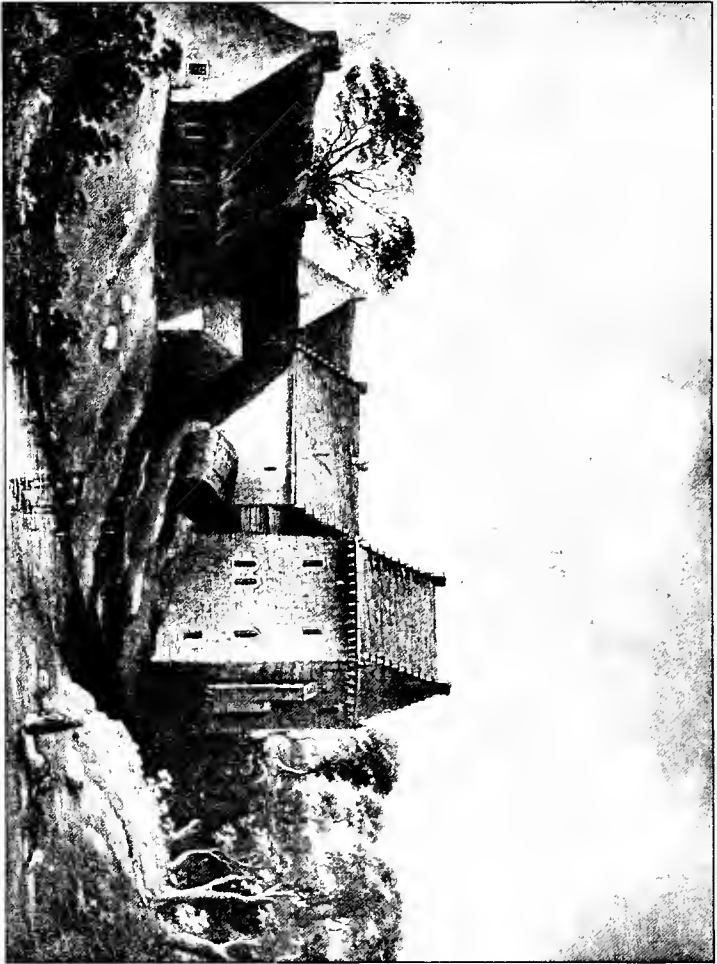
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PART VIII

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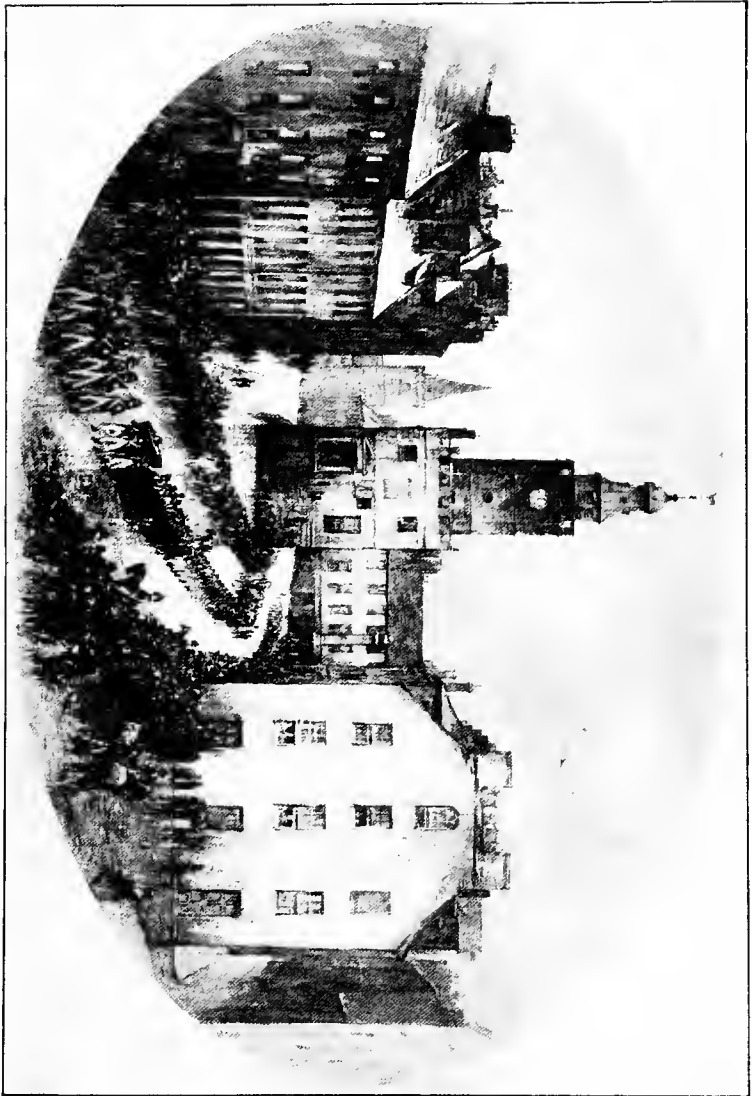
Mauchline Castle in 1856
(From a painting by James Currie)



Mossfield



Globe Tavern, Dumfries
(From a painting by George Thompson)



The Funeral of Robert Burns, Dumfries, July 25, 1796
(From a painting by W. E. Lockhart, R.S.A.)



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