

PREFACE.

The poems contained in this work have been taken almost wholly from the manuscript collections of Dr. Hector Maclean and John Maclean, the Poet.

Dr. Hector Maclean was the only son of Lachlan Maclean of Grulin, in the Isle of Mull. He was a well-educated and well-read man. He married Catherine, daughter of Donald Maclean of Coll, by whom he had a daughter named Mary. He lived during the latter part of his life on the farm of Erray, near Tobermory. He collected a number of valuable Gaelic poems about the year 1768. They are written in a strongly bound volume of foolscap size. They cover 128 pages. The writing is small, but neat and plain. The whole of the long elegy at page 116 of this work occupies only two pages and a half. Dr. Maclean died about the year 1785.

Mary Maclean, Dr. Hector's daughter, was an exceedingly clever girl. Dr. Johnson, who had spent a night at her father's house in 1773, pronounced her the most accomplished lady that he had