

PREFACE.

Many years ago, partly for my own amusement and improvement, I engaged in translating the Gaelic Poems of Buchannan and Grant into verse. The work was gradually continued until I had translated all of Buchannan's and two of Grant's. Various parties who had seen them expressed a desire that they should be published. Under the impression that the publication would be attended with pecuniary loss, which I could ill afford, I steadily declined. But more recently, under altered circumstances, and with sufficient encouragement to induce the belief that the undertaking would pay, the publication has been commenced, and after an unavoidable delay, it is now, with considerable diffidence, submitted to the judgment of an indulgent public.

It is extremely easy to find fault with any production, and there may be critics who can detect errors and defects in this. But while far from claiming perfection for my own humble efforts, I would ask all such to consider the great difficulty of translating poetry in one language into poetry in another. I have endeavored throughout, to make the translation as faithful and literal as possible consistently with the versification and spirit of the original. The most literal translation is not always the most faithful. It may be mentioned that Grant's poems, of which I have translated only two, are much more numerous than Buchannan's. Any defects which may be found in this little work will be removed, and additional translations given, if it should ever reach a second edition.

HUGH MCCOLL.

Strathroy, March, 1870.