

# THE COVENANTERS

IN

## MORAY AND ROSS:

BY

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## P R E F A C E.

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THE following chapters originated in a series of popular Lectures prepared at the request of the Mechanics' Institute of Forres, and delivered in that town, and in Nairn, Inverness, Invergordon, and Elgin. There was no intention of giving them, either a wider publicity, or a more permanent form; but the audiences in the several places having expressed a wish to see my manuscript in print—probably because they felt that the ear required the aid of the eye in following the details of the narrative,—it is now published. The sketch has grown somewhat in the reproduction, but the demands of a laborious pastorate have forbidden any attempt to recast it in a more strictly historic form, or to bestow upon it a treatment worthier of the subject. Whatever its imperfections, I trust that, at the least, the men of Moray and Ross will recognise it as a well-meaning, if feeble, attempt to keep alive the memory of men and of deeds that ought not to be forgotten by us.

I had cherished the hope of being able, some day, to follow up the subject by tracing the history of

religious life and ecclesiastical activity in this district, from the Revolution to the present day, but that hope has now to be abandoned. Perhaps some Moray man better acquainted than I with the district and its memories will take it up.

I gratefully acknowledge the obligations under which James D. Miller, Esq., Forres, the Rev. Gustavus Aird of Creich, and several other friends, have laid me, by kindly permitting me to draw on the stores of their memories and their book-shelves.

M. M.

NAIRN, *24th July* 1875.

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