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## Electric Scotland's Weekly Newsletter for March 14th, 2025

### Electric Scotland News

MeidasTouch

<https://www.youtube.com/@MeidasTouch>

The fastest growing independent news network in the world. We cover breaking news, politics, law and more. We are unapologetically pro-democracy. Because TRUTH is golden.

This YouTube channel has some 4.5 million subscribers. It is clear they support the Democrats in the USA. However I do feel they provide a perspective that counters what President Trump is doing in America.

For example, when you see Donald Trump's comments on Ukraine with claiming its leader only has a 4% approval rating you'll see that since the White House debacle his approval rating is now at 70% and even before that it was above 50%. You simply can't trust what he is saying and so we do need to fact check him.

So it's clear to me that we do need to look at other channels to get counter news and thus why I've added this channel to our News and Politics section of our YouTube channels.

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As far as news goes I'm afraid that the Trump tariffs take center stage these days as he up ends global trade and relations.

Canada is the USA's biggest export market... bigger than China, Japan, the UK and France combined. Yes the USA does import lots of Canadian products but that's simply because we can supply products that the USA needs. Like Oil, Gas and Water but also Potash, Copper, Nickel, Uranium and other rare earth minerals. Canada is an energy and mineral super power which is why the USA should be working more closely with Canada.

However the 51st State comments have made Canadian's very angry and is why I feel that the relations between the two countries has been fatally damaged as Canada will now export far more to Asia and Europe.

I confess I never saw this coming as I was a Trump supporter but this tariff war with the world just makes no sense. All it's doing is creating new power blocks around the world. The world feels they can no longer trust the USA and so all are now looking at fresh relationships with other countries and looking at how to better operate their internal processes like Canada's inter-Provincial system.

See the latest news on this CNN interview at:

[https://youtu.be/uEK01tSWAQA?si=laHd4W\\_b5saEf1D](https://youtu.be/uEK01tSWAQA?si=laHd4W_b5saEf1D)

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As to the Canadian elections... Carney is now the next Prime Minister of Canada and latest polling is

suggesting a new pivot to the Liberals although the Conservatives still hold a lead. It looks like an election might be called for the Tuesday after the Easter Weekend but of course this is conjecture at this time.

Scottish News from this weeks newspapers

I am partly doing this to build an archive of modern news from and about Scotland and world news stories that can affect Scotland and as all the newsletters are archived and also indexed on search engines it becomes a good resource. I might also add that in a number of newspapers you will find many comments which can be just as interesting as the news story itself and of course you can also add your own comments if you wish which I do myself from time to time.

Here is what caught my eye this week...

Japan Ditches the Dollar! US Shocked by Japan Sells Treasury Holdings Against Trump's Tariffs!

We'll guide viewers through the mass bond sell-off by key American allies (Japan, Saudi Arabia, UK, etc.), the reasons driving it, how it could threaten U.S. dominance, and the potential shift toward other reserve assets like gold, yuan, or even crypto. You will also discuss political and diplomatic angles like how America's debt load, interest rate changes, or geopolitical rifts are weakening trust in Treasuries.

Watch this at:

<https://youtu.be/naFBeJSPGro?si=Manj-Uc5P5ZGni3l>

Trump Steers America Away from Allies and Towards Autocracies

For 80 years, the United States was the undisputed leader of Western democracies. But Donald Trump is discarding allies and values in favor of power and money as he steers America into the camp of the autocrats.

Read more at:

[https://www.spiegel.de/international/world/europe-on-the-sidelines-trump-steers-america-away-from-allies-and-towards-autocracies-a-7d05f582-29c5-41f2-84fd-5fd60a2baa01?sara\\_ref=re-nl-spiegelinternational2100-2025\\_03\\_07](https://www.spiegel.de/international/world/europe-on-the-sidelines-trump-steers-america-away-from-allies-and-towards-autocracies-a-7d05f582-29c5-41f2-84fd-5fd60a2baa01?sara_ref=re-nl-spiegelinternational2100-2025_03_07)

Alberta fighting back against U.S. tariffs

Alberta Leader makes statement against Trump Tariffs

Watch this at;

<https://youtube.com/shorts/ljZ2bJ2OyYA?si=C8VBfaiLuMxhXGZC>

Justin Trudeau gives final speech as Liberal Party leader

Outgoing Prime Minister Justin Trudeau addresses supporters in his final speech as Liberal leader soon before Canadians find out who the party has chosen as its new leader.

Watch this at:

[https://youtu.be/LiAuc67drlQ?si=BH4KpBbwv\\_SvdBlS](https://youtu.be/LiAuc67drlQ?si=BH4KpBbwv_SvdBlS)

Carney addresses Canadians as new Liberal leader and PM-designate

Prime minister-designate Mark Carney delivers his victory speech at the Liberal leadership convention in Ottawa.

Watch this at:

[https://youtu.be/Qv6JIMtX8Qc?si=w2AA0sniM\\_Uc5rHs](https://youtu.be/Qv6JIMtX8Qc?si=w2AA0sniM_Uc5rHs)

Conrad Black: Canada's stark choice

The coming election is shaping up to be a choice between self-destruction and future prosperity

Read more at:

<https://archive.is/OAkVv>

Jordan Peterson: Mark Carney doesn't value a prosperous Canada  
This would-be planetary saviour has no respect for free markets

Read more at:

<https://archive.is/Bp8>

Canada needs to secure the Arctic - now  
How Canada Wins: We need to beat the bad actors to the Arctic scramble. How?

Read more at:

<https://archive.is/VRVmN#selection-2133.0-2133.85>

Overseas territories are not relics, they are key to UK security  
We can no longer afford to treat these areas as footnotes in our defence strategy they provide the infrastructure we need to respond swiftly to threats.

Read more at:

<https://archive.is/afKzj#selection-1471.0-1471.153>

The UK needs a reformed second chamber  
Nicola Sturgeon has announced that she won't be standing in next year's Holyrood election. Most of the other remaining 'class of '99' MSPs, who have sat in Holyrood since it reopened, have said the same.

Read more at:

<https://sceptical.scot/2025/03/the-uk-needs-a-reformed-second-chamber/>

How Practical Are Municipal Made-In-Canada Initiatives?  
Donald Trump has not yet imposed widespread tariffs on Canada yet, but already municipal leaders are waving the Maple Leaf and promising to investigate Made-in-Canada substitutes for goods and services sourced from the U.S. But with deeply integrated, cross-border supply chains, the job of procurement professionals just got harder. So, how practical is it for Ontario's cities and towns to replace U.S. goods? A closer look at the opportunities to support Canadian businesses, and the risks of restricting U.S. suppliers.

Watch this at:

[https://youtu.be/BMMm7CITR44?si=uZytcUODB\\_oxpW5j](https://youtu.be/BMMm7CITR44?si=uZytcUODB_oxpW5j)

New U.S. immigration rules for Canadians  
U.S. immigration lawyer Len Saunders says the U.S. enforcing a visitor registration law for Canadians is 'disastrous' because most won't know about it and could face arrest.

Watch this at:

<https://youtu.be/kh6b1DJvUdo?si=2LvOyxDxXHZt74ob>

Trading with Bullies  
Economics for a Hard-Power World

Read more at:

<https://www.siliconcontinent.com/p/trading-with-bullies>

Electric Canadian

Stray Leaves from Highland History

Gleaned by Major R. Gillis with Introduction and Appendix by Rev. D. J. Rankin, P. P. (1918) (pdf)

Excellent book which you can read at:

<http://www.electriccanadian.com/history/Scotland/strayleavesfromh00gill.pdf>

Canadian Journal of Industry, Science and Art  
Added Volume II (1853-54) (pdf)

You can read this volume at:

<http://www.electriccanadian.com/magazines/canadianjournal2185354ca.pdf>

The Three Voyages of William Barents to the Arctic Region  
(1594, 1595, and 1596) by Gerrit De Veer (pdf)

You can read this book at;

[http://www.electriccanadian.com/history/bwb\\_W9-CLK-803.pdf](http://www.electriccanadian.com/history/bwb_W9-CLK-803.pdf)

The Anglo-American Magazine  
Added Volume 7 August 1855

You can read this issue at:

<http://www.electriccanadian.com/magazines/angloamerican.htm>

Literature and Art in Canada  
By Sir John Bourinot, K. C. M. G., LL.D., LIT. D. (1900) (pdf)

You can read this article at:

<http://www.electriccanadian.com/history/articles/20140607-a5.pdf>

Thoughts on a Sunday Morning - 2025 March 9 - Lent I  
By The Rev. Nola Crewe

You can watch this at:

<http://www.electricscotland.org/forum/communities/rev-nola-crewe/26599-thoughts-on-a-sunday-morning-2025-march-9-lent-i>

The Beaver Magazine  
Added Volume 4 No. 8 (pdf)

You can read this issue at:

<http://www.electriccanadian.com/transport/HUDSONBAY/TheBeaver-May1924.pdf>

## Electric Scotland

A Compendious Book of Godly and Spiritual Songs  
Commonly known as The Gude and Godlie Ballatis reprinted from the edition of 1567 edited with introduction and notes by A. F. Mitchell, D.D., LL.D., Emeritus Professor of Ecclesiastical History, St. Andrews (1897) (pdf)

You can read this at:

<https://electricscotland.com/bible/compeno00wedd.pdf>

Memoirs of the Life of Lord Lovat

From an old text where the letter s is written as an f (1776) (pdf)

You can read this at:

[https://electricscotland.com/canada/fraser/memoirs-of-the-life-of-l\\_1746.pdf](https://electricscotland.com/canada/fraser/memoirs-of-the-life-of-l_1746.pdf)

Maighstir Raonall Mac Domhnaill

Priest at Inverbeg, Tarbert and Bracarina from 1780-1840 (pdf)

You can read about him at:

<https://electricscotland.com/bible/Maighstir-Raonall-Inverbeg.pdf>

The Morar Cross

A brief history of the Cross and the Morar Church by P. Galbraith (pdf)

You can read this article at:

<https://electricscotland.com/webclans/m/morarcross.pdf>

The Last Laird of Morar

by Alasdair Roberts (pdf)

You can read this at:

<https://electricscotland.com/webclans/m/lastlairdofmorar.pdf>

Styles of Writs

And Forms of Procedure in the Church Courts of Scotland by Rev. J. Cook, D.D., Minister of Haddington (1850) (pdf)

You can read this book at:

[https://electricscotland.com/bible/Styles\\_of\\_writs\\_and\\_forms\\_of\\_procedure\\_i.pdf](https://electricscotland.com/bible/Styles_of_writs_and_forms_of_procedure_i.pdf)

Oswald Chambers

After studying and later teaching in a small theological college in Dunoon, he moved into a preaching ministry that spanned Britain, America and Japan.

Received information from one of our readers about this person so did some work on it and produced this page about him which you can read at:

<https://electricscotland.com/bible/oswaldchambers.htm>

The Highlander

Vol. I - No.2 Week Ending May 21, 1873 (pdf)

You can read this issue at:

<https://electricscotland.com/lifestyle/highlander0102.pdf>

The Highlander

New Series Vol. I - No.1 July 1881 (pdf)

You can read this issue at:

<https://electricscotland.com/lifestyle/highlander01.pdf>

The Scottish Academie

Or, Institution of a Young Nobleman describing first, Who are truly Noble, or Gentlemen, &c. Then, Methodically thus shewing, in five books, Of Parents towards their Children, Of Preceptors towards their Pupils, Of Children towards God and the King, Towards their Parents, and Preceptors. Towards all men in the civill conversation and lastly directing them in their Travelling abroad by James Cleland (1611) (pdf)

You can read this book at:

[https://electricScotland.com/books/pdf/scottish-academie-\\_cleland-j\\_1611.pdf](https://electricScotland.com/books/pdf/scottish-academie-_cleland-j_1611.pdf)

A Concise History of The Scots' Charitable Society

Added this document to our page about the society and also another one we found both in pdf format.

You can read this article at:

<https://electricScotland.com/history/america/scotscharitablesociety.htm>

John of Fordun's Chronical of the Scottish Nation

Translated from the Latin text by Felix J., H. Skene (1871) (pdf)

You can read this book at:

<https://electricScotland.com/history/johannisdefordun02ford.pdf>

Proceedings of the Natural History Society of Glasgow

Volume IV 1878-1880 (pdf)

You can read this volume at:

<https://electricScotland.com/nature/proceedingsofnat04natu.pdf>

The Clydesdale Flora

A Description of the flowering plants and ferns of the Clyde District, arranged according to the natural orders, with a glossary of terms and diagrams by the Late Roger Kennedy, Lecturer on Botany in the Andersonian University, Glasgow (1878) (pdf)

You can read this at:

<https://electricScotland.com/nature/clydesdaleflorad00henrich.pdf>

The McIntire family, descendents of Micum Mecantire of York county, Maine

By Harry Alexander Davis (1939) (pdf)

You can read this at:

<https://electricScotland.com/webclans/m/mcintirefamilyde00davi.pdf>

Soldiering and Surveying in British East Africa 1891-1894

By Major J. R. L. MacDonald, R.E. (1897) (pdf)

You can read this book at:

<https://electricScotland.com/history/africa/soldieringsurvey00macd.pdf>

Scotland's Prime Position as Global R&D Partner Under Threat Following US Political Moves

Massachusetts Institute of Technology report warning the Trump political regime - spearheaded by Musk's DOGE - is "dismantling" scientific leadership with global ramifications the outcome. An article by Bill Magee



which you can read at:

<https://electricScotland.com/magee/article0026.htm>

## Story

Peter Buchan's Introduction to one of his books which shows how it is important to preserve the old poems. It certainly made me appreciate the importance of preserving this information which is partly why I thought I'd share this with you here...

In all ages, and by all nations of the world, even in a rude and a barbarous state, has the voice of song been cherished, and made to express the natural feelings of a grateful, a joyful, a brave, and a generous heart. Much has been written on the nature and composition of Song, but it all tends to shew that it had its origin in love and gratitude. Love to the Supreme Creator first inspired the muse to tune the heart to sing his praises, and the wonders of indefinite creation, and gratitude continued the song. When man was taught the duties he owed to a Deity, and the obligations he was daily under for his preservation, he testified the same in the fulness of his heart, by the adoration given in his morning and evening songs. Religion and love are synonymous, and expressed in the sweet and delightful cadence of poetical imagery and numbers. When the dawn of nature first began to spread its benign influence over the infant mind of man, and the light of religion dispel the dense mists of heathen darkness, it was like the bursting of a rapid river from its channelled course; the longer it ran the wider the breach, and the deeper the stream the smoother the current.

Such was the case regarding poetical refinement; and such was the happiness of man, when the first rays of light broke through the dark and almost impenetrable clouds of ignorance and superstition. Poetical sublimity has paved the way to the cultivation of man's taste, and the refinement of his manners and morals. Previous to the art or discovery of writing and printing, the religion, the laws, and the histories of times, families, and particular events, were preserved and handed down from one generation to another, by a race of people called Druids, Bards, Scalds, Senachies, Minstrels, &c. who were wont to sing their themes of religion, love, friendship, war, or history. They were in great esteem both amongst the Gauls and Britons. Their function and name doth yet remain among all those nations which use the old British tongue: and so much honour was given to them in many places, that their persons were accounted sacred, and their houses sanctuaries: nay, in the height of their enmities, when they managed the cruellest wars one against another, and used their victories as severely, yet these Bards and their retinue had free liberty to pass and repass at their pleasure. The nobles, when they came to them, received them honourably, and dismissed them with gifts. They made cantos, and these not inelegant, which the rhapsodists recited, either to the better sort, or else to the vulgar, who were very desirous to hear them; and sometimes they sung to musical instruments. They were often maintained by the chief of the ancient clans, and by some wealthy men, kept on purpose to commemorate their ancestors, and first of their families, in genealogics which they got by heart. In this case, many fly to the Bards and Senachies, as the preservers of ancient records. Tacitus says, that the songs of the German Bards were their only annals. And Joannes Magnus, Archbishop of Upsal, acknowledges, that in compiling the History of the Ancient Goths, he had no other records but the songs of the Bards. As these songs made an illustrious figure at every festival, they were conveyed in every family by parents to their children, and in that manner were kept alive before writing was known. It is to this vanity alone, that we owe the preservation and the remains of ancient poesy.

The Bards made an early appearance in Scotland; for, "beneath the moss-covered rock of Lona, near his own loud stream, gray in his locks of age, dwells Clonmal, king of harps." They delivered their mysterious doctrines in verses entrusted entirely to memory, which, as a part of their education, their pupils were taught to repeat. They were the oracles, prophets, priests, philosophers, poets, lawgivers, judges, physicians, and teachers of the Gauls; as their Bards, like the German Scalds, were, more especially, their poets, historians or annalists, and musicians: those communicated their knowledge and precepts also in verse; and these "sung the battles of

heroes, and the heaving bosoms of love." The first traditional records and compositions of all nations were poetical; and that verse, from custom, was continued, as most impressive and memorable, on subjects thought worthy of preservation. America has; Asia, Greece, and Italy had their Bards, as well as Gaul; and the Scalds of the North were equally honoured and famous in Germany. And till of late. there were itinerant Bards, or strolling Minstrels, who performed upon harps, and sung and recited heroic and other ballads. To these rural Minstrels, I am convinced, we are indebted for the preservation of many of our fine old ballads and songs; many of which will be found to enrich this Collection, culled with the greatest industry and care from among the sons and daughters of the North.

Poetry has been long and justly esteemed as the noblest ebullition of the human soul. Its uses are as various as its power is unbounded; and let not the vulgar mind ridicule and abuse its votaries as troublesome and useless members of society. But I speak not to those whose faculties are contracted within the narrow sphere of sordid gain; but to those whose ideas are extended, whose minds are refined, and who can cultivate a taste for polite literature amid the more weighty concerns of business. In the first ages, poetry was generally used to perpetuate the memory of some great event, to sing the praises of heroes, and to honour the remains of those who fell in battle. Some nations (as the Arabians do at present) distinguished the various genealogies of their tribes and families in verse, which was conveyed from father to child as a sort of patrimony. The ideas of the ancient Bards were generally simple and sublime, and expressed in language at once natural, nervous and fiery; every sentiment sprung from real feeling, and every word (such was their conciseness) seemed indispensably necessary to the harmony of the whole. And, although many of these bards, or minstrels, were both untutored and unlettered, their songs are the language of the heart. and speak the sentiments of the soul, in familiar verse.

It becomes us then, as the advocates of a national concern, not to weary in this honoured labour of love; but to strain every nerve, to preserve from the fast decaying hand of time, a remnant of those wild flowers which have garnished the antique halls of an ancient race of warriors, now long forgotten except in the sweet voice of magic song. And, although much has been done, still much remains undone, in collecting those mutilated fragments of our early ancestors; those graphic relics of antiquity, which delineate men and manners, kings and heroes, things natural and supernatural, not as they exist now, but as they were once believed to be. It must therefore be gratifying to every liberal-minded man of taste, and every lover of his country, to find there are still labourers who delight to glean in the vineyard of traditionary song, and snatch from the beds of oblivion, what have at one time contributed to the greatness of kings, the pleasures of the commons, the inspiration of heroes, and been the wonder and delight of ages. Even to the man of letters, as well as the literary antiquary, they become interesting.

No one has yet conceived, nor has it entered the mind of man, what patience, perseverance, and general knowledge are necessary for an editor of a Collection of Ancient Ballads; nor what mountains of difficulties he has to overcome; what hosts of enemies he has to encounter; and what myriads of little-minded quibblers he has to silence. The writing of explanatory notes is like no other species of literature. History throws little light upon their origin, or the cause which gave rise to their composition. He has to grope his way in the dark; like Bunyan's pilgrim, on crossing the valley of the shadow of death, he hears sounds and noises, but cannot, to a certainty, tell from whence they come, nor to what place they proceed. The one time, he has to treat of fabulous ballads in the most romantic shape; the next legendary, with all its exploded, obsolete, and forgotten superstitions; also history, tragedy, comedy, love, war, and so on; all, perhaps, within the narrow compass of a few hours, so varied must his genius and talents be.

The Ballads themselves are faithfully and honestly transcribed, and given as taken down from the mouths of the reciters: they have suffered no change since they fortunately were consigned to me by their foster parents. There are many of them, however, much like those already published, but under different names: of these I have been careful to advise my reader; also, when and where I have found such likeness. From such proceedings, it will then be seen that I have acted as candid and upright a part as within the compass of the power of any one situated under similar circumstances. I have spared neither money nor trouble, in procuring



the most genuine and best authenticated copies of all the Ancient Ballads in the following pages, and flatter myself I have succeeded beyond any of my cotemporaries. I have also been able to complete many of the very best pieces hitherto only found in mutilated fragments, even in popular and esteemed collections; and trust they will form a valuable acquisition to the libraries of all those interested in the history of Scottish literature. But, as perfection has not yet been the lot of man, no one will expect that such a work as this can be altogether free of faults, and that it is impossible to please every reader: as this is the case, my great ambition is to gratify those of a kindred spirit, whose ears are ever open to the recital of the tales of other years; of their country and its inhabitants, their loves and wars, joys and woes, as depicted by worthies, who once, like themselves, filled an honourable situation in life; who shared in the festivities of their day; but who are now, unless in the songs of their mirth and sadness, exploded from the memories of a forgetful world. Yet a remnant shall be saved; the lovers of Ancient Minstrelsy will find many of those ditties that gladdened the hearts of their ancestors, and cheered the warlike halls of their ancient and noble possessors, to enrich the work now before them. Although the labourers in this field of traditional Song have, of late, proved abundant, and their gleanings made with pious care, their works will show how thin their harvest has been. And, I may add, every year is making it more and more so, by the demise of some worthy matron, or hoary-headed sire, who is silently sliding away at the command of ruthless death, to where the sons of the morning sing together in endless concert. There are still, though now few, some beautiful and sweet morsels of the olden times, to be found among the aged and venerated people of the North, that have escaped the most diligent researches of these modern reapers. As much of our traditional history, particularly local, is blended with the family exploits of the times, as recorded in the olden ballads, their preservation becomes necessary, and a profitable source of useful information and delight, not only to the antiquary, but to every one who feels an interest in the decayed memories of their forefathers—who wish to cherish a national spirit, and who are anxious to support the time-worn structure, and falling towers of Ancient Scottish National Song. Let them then rouse each latent feeling, and encourage those who make such studies their delight, and who take pleasure in preserving them.

As man has a thinking principle within him, he is conscious that nothing in this world can perfect his happiness, so that he flies from one object to another, with a view of lessening his misery, or increasing his pleasure; and, as times and ages change, so do his manners, feeling, and dispositions; what was his joy today, may become his sorrow to-morrow. He has at length discovered, that, in recovering the vestiges of the olden times, he anticipates a mental satisfaction rarely arising from the pursuits of vice. The literature of past ages has engrossed the study and attention of almost every civilized and learned man. He can judge from the works of imagination, the state of the minds of his ancestors, and the manners and characters of a rude, or an enlightened people, in their native colour and dress. And, as of late years, there has been more than an ordinary enquiry after the poetical relics of our early history, much has been preserved from the wreck of ages—old things have become new, and a re-novation of our Scottish literature seems to have taken place in all the plenitude of its strength and beauty. The darksome ages that gave birth to the mental achievements of our forefathers, are now forgot; and that spirit only which lay sleeping in the tomb of forgetfulness, arises with the vigour it was wont to show in its chivalric deeds: And, although the age of knight-errantry and chivalry have passed entirely away, those emotions of heroic feeling are still alive in the breasts of many. The human heart still retains the same sentiments of honour, and the lofty magnanimity of the glory of past ages.

To these kindred spirits, do I then offer the pride of my toils;—the only legitimate history of the superstitions and times in which they were conceived. In them, the lives and actions of kings, nobles, and commons, will be found delineated with the artless and unassuming pen of nature: their ancestors portrayed in their true colours, and a display of those deeds which gave rise to their first ambition and greatness. Should, then, the following volumes meet with that encouragement which I anticipate, I will not eat the bread of idleness, but still persevere in culling and garnering up for the sons of Scotsmen yet unborn, those sweetly variegated blossoms which bloom in the straw-covered cot, among the silvery-headed monuments of living antiquity, in the North of my native Isle.

Long, and perhaps tiresome, as this Introduction has been to many of my readers, I must still add a few words more, partly by way of showing my fervent gratitude, and partly by way of explanation of what follows.

In the first place, it is necessary to say by what means I became possessed of so many valuable reliques as adorn the following pages, as some of my sceptical readers may think them forgeries; but as it is impossible for me to satisfy every person, I must adopt the shortest method, by saying, that the greater part of them was taken down by myself during the last ten or twelve years, from the singing and recitation of old men and women, in various parts of Scotland, but chiefly in Aberdeenshire: others were sent me by ladies and gentlemen of the highest respectability, on whose words, as to their authenticity, I could safely depend; but as it would be too tedious to name them all, although to all my thanks are due, I shall only particularize Hugh Irvine, Esq. Drum; Malvina, a young lady in Aberdeen; and Mr James Nicol, Strichen. I must also mention that I was much indebted to the recitation of James Rankin, an old man, blind from his birth, with a most retentive memory, and who is at this moment gathering for me what can be gleaned within the circle of a large and extensive acquaintance; as it is my most earnest wish, and greatest pleasure, to preserve every fragment and literary monument of our early ancestors, that can illustrate the history and times in which they had their existence on this terrestrial ball, however much and unjustly I may be reprobated, as of late I have been, by ignorant persons, under a false show of modesty and grace. And, although this is the first attempt of the kind that was ever made in the North, I trust it will not be the last; for among our heath-clad hills the roses as well as the thistles grow—in the glens, sprigs of the willow are to be found, and the harp of Apollo often heard!

My best acknowledgments are not less due to John Richardson, Esq. of Pitfour, Pitfour Castle, Perthshire, for the loan of a curious and interesting old MS. volume of Poems. On the first page of this MS. is written — “This Buick perteens to a verie honourable womane, Margarat Robertsoune, relict of vmquhile Alexander Steuart of Bonskeid, Anno Domini 1630.” I am informed she belonged to the Lude family, and the Poems are those referred to by General Stewart of Garth, in his Sketches of the Highlands, as containing proofs of the advanced state of literature in the Highlands in the 17th century. Of this collection I intended to have given freely; but on arriving at Edinburgh, I found the work so far advanced in the printing as to prevent me from giving more than two pieces as a specimen, which will be found at the end of this Introduction. However, in a forthcoming volume, which has already been called for, as my Ballad-store is not yet exhausted, I will then avail myself of its contents, and draw upon it largely.

I shall now close this Introduction by observing, that, among the many gentlemen of rank and respectability, who have interested themselves not a little in the success of this publication, am I indebted to Charles Kirkpatrick Sharpe, Esquire, Edinburgh, and to whom I beg to offer, with every sense of respect and esteem, my most sincere thanks for the trouble he has taken in revising the proof-sheets of the Ballads as they emanated from the press, as my living at such a distance from Edinburgh prevented my own corrections. No one, however, that knows the refined taste and superior judgment of this gentleman, in every thing connected with Ancient Scottish Literature, will regret my absence. The Introduction and Notes are as they came from my pen. A tribute of grateful respect is also due to all those who have encouraged the work by their friendly patronage, as without patrons all my labours would have been lost.

To avoid the imputation of vanity, I am anxious to state, that the Portrait prefixed to this volume has been given at the special request of some of my friends in Edinburgh, who have taken an interest in the publication.

PETER BUCHAN.

Peterhead, October 1828.

END.

Weekend is almost here and hope it's a good one for you.

Alastair

PS Our newsletter archives can always be found at:

<https://electricScotland.com/newsletter/index.htm>