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Collcation of searce and mavourie
SCOTS TUNES

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fuefuraly aidafted for the
Violin,GERMANFlute,Harpsichord \&Piano-Forte
to ntich is finefixeals
a ESSAY on SCOTS MUSIG.
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L. O N D O N:


A.S moft national Mufic, and in particular that of the Scots, originated with the BARDs, the prefent Effay may not improperly commence with fome enquiry into the origin and employment of an order of men, once fo famous both in Europe and other countries.

The Bards may be traced to Greece, (a) and as high as the time of Homer, $(b)$ to whom (in a lax fenfe, at leaft) the character may be applied. They probably received their origin among fome of the eaftern nations, and might derive their office from that of the Hebrew prophets, whom they frongly refembled. (c)

During many ages, thefe were the chief cultivators of Poetry, Heraldry, and Mufic ; particularly among the Celtæ, a great and powerful nation, which once flourifhed in the weft of Europe. From thefe (whether immediately, or by the medium of Ireland, is of no confequence to our prefent enquiries) the Scots themfelves originated; as did likewife their Mufic, their Poetry, and their Bards; thefe being Spared, by general confent, on the introduction of Chriftianity, while the Druids, on whom they had been dependent, funk with the fuperftitions and idolatries with which they were connected, $(d)$

In the Higblands, where the moft ancient Scottifh Mufic has been preferved, every Chief formerly maintained a Bard in his family, whofe principal bufinefs was to celebrate, in Lyric ftrains, his patron's heroifm, and the exploits of his anceftors. They generally expreffed themfelves with the ardour of enthufiafm, and often rofe to the fublime.
(a) It is remarkable enough to merit an obfervation, that the inhabitants of Peru and Mexico, in South America, and even thofe of the Marian Iflands, had among them an order of men fimiliar to the Bards. Encyclop. Brit. (new edition) article Bard.
(b) Odyff. Book viii.
(c) See the Hiftorical Efray prefixed to Pralmodia Evargelica, Vol, II, Page g.

Thefe Bards were not regarded with the contempt that modern times have beftowed upon their fucceffors, but raifed to the higheft honours, and particularly empfoyed in embaffies of peace, their perfons being efteemed facred. "Caibar feared," fays Offian, "to ftretch forth his "fword to the Bards, though his foul was dark." - "Loofe the Bards," faid his brother Cathmor, "they are the fons of other times. Their voice fhall be heard in other ages, when the kings of Temora have failed." (e)

Another confiderable part of their office was to celebrate their deceafed patrons; and of fuch confequence were their elegiac compofitions imagined to be to the departed ghofts, that thofe who were fo unhappy as to die without this honourable attention were fuppofed to " wander in the thick mifts before the reedy lake." (f)
In fucceeding ages, thefe domeftic Poets and Muficians very much declined both in character and refpect. Among the various reafons which have been affigned for this event, one of the moft confiderable feems to have been the revival of literature; for "book learning," as an ingenious writer obferves, "has ever proved fatal to unlet"tered poets." (g)
Although the Eag-pipe is now the favourite inftrument of the Highlanders, it does not appear to have been always fo. Giraldus Cambrenfis (b) freaks of the Harp as ufed in this country, as well as in Ireland and Wales; and writers of fuperior credit and antiquity defcribe the Harp as the inftrument of the moft ancient Bards: (i) Offian alfo,

$$
\text { (d) Blair's Crit. Differt, on Offian's Poems, Page } 11
$$

(e) Offian's Poems, Vol. I. Page 263. (f) Blair's Differt. Page 21.
$(g)$ Diffiertation on the Influence of Poetry and Mufic upon the Highlanders prefixed to M'Donald's Highland Airs.
(b) Topograph. Hibern. Lib. II, Cap. xi. (i) Diod Siculus, Amm. Marcellinus, \&ec. A
if his teftimony may be admitted, fays, "Beneath his own tree, at in" tervals, each Bard fat down with his Harp. They raifed the fong, " and touched the ftring each to the Chief he loved." $(k)$ The laft performer on this inftrument in the Hebrides was one Morijon or Dall, who, in the clofe of the laft century, acted as Bard to the Laird of M•Leod, of Dunvegan Caftle ; and, like Demodocus of old, was blind.

To the Harp fucceeded the Bagpipe; which, though not of equal, is certainly of very high antiquity among the northern nations. It is not mentioned in Offian, but it is fuppofed to be intended in fome ancient northern fongs by the appellation of the Soeck Pipe (l) This inftrument, as the Harp had been before, was ufed to accompany the Corronach, or Dirge, in which, formerly, the deceafed was wont to be addreffed in broken extemporary verfes, a practice not yet entirely difufed among the Irifl.
Many learned men have fuppofed a great part of the old Scottifh Mufic, and even their Bards, derived immediately from Ireland; and that king Fames I. of Scotland, who reigned in the 15 th century, both introduced and naturalized them. It is certain that he was a Poet and Mufician, ( $m$ ) particularly a Harper, and there is ftill extant an ancient Mufical Treati/e afcribed to him. An old writer calls him another Orpheus, who exceeded both the Highlanders and the Irifh, the beft Harpers of their time. ( $n$ ) Buchanan thought him more of a Mufician than a king ought to be; ( 0 ) and indeed it muft be confeffed that few princes who have endeavoured to diftinguifh themfelves as practical Mu ficians, have been equally eminent as good kings. But his mufical fame even reached to Italy ; for Tafioni, a celebrated writer of that country, mentions him as the inventor of a new fpecies of plaintive melody. $(p)$
Famss V . was another mufical prince, and the reputed author of fome fongs fill in being. One of them was compofed, it is faid, on occafion
of his having an amour with the daughter of a Highland Cottager, $(q)$ as he was ftrolling in difguife about the country. This prince's fame likewife extended to l raly, and he is celebrated by the elegant Ariofo, under the name of Zerbino. (r)
David Rizzio, the unhappy Italian Secretary of Mary queen of Scots, has been formerly afferted to have much refiner, and fomewhat Italianized many of the Scottifh tunes ; but the fact has been of late difputed, and with apparent reafon. (s) There are a few favourite Scots tunes which tradition afcribes to him, perhaps with more truth. (t) Barfanti, however, another Italian, who vifited North Britain in the prefent century, collected and made baffes to a number of favourite Scottifh airs, which at the fame time he might probably modernize and refine, if not improve.
It is certainly a very curious fact, that the fifter arts of Poetry and Mufic fhould be fo much admired and cultivated as they have been in many nations confidered as barbarous and uncivilized ; but it is equally true, that thefe arts have, in a greater or lefs degree, contributed to civilize and humanize thofe very nations. This is particularly remarkable as to the Arcadians, who were naturally very fierce and barbarous, till foftened by the power of Mufic, which they made an effential part of education; but the Cynrethians, a branch of the fame fock, neglecting this cultivation, were the moft ungovernable and ferocious fubjects Greece had. (u)
The wonderful ftories related of Amphion and Orpheus are, by the foberer crit.cs, fuppofed to mean no more than that, by the union of Mufic and Poetry, they civilized the firl barbarous inhabitants of Greece, reconciled them to live in fociety, and cultivate the ufeful and domeftic arts

## Policy

(k) Offian's Poems, Vol. II. Page 112, 113.
(l) Pennant's Tour to the Hebrides, Page 302.
(ni) Hawkins's Hiftory of Mufic, Vol. IV. Page 4.
(n) Major de Geft. Scot. Lib. VI.
( 0 , 一" Qam regem vel deceat, vel expediat, \&ec."Rer. Scot. Hift. Lib. X. § 57.
( $P$ ) " Ma tioù da fe fteffo una nuova, mufica lamenteuole, e mefta differente da tutti l'altro." Penfieri Diverf, Lib. X. Cap. 23.
(q) No. XVIII. The Gaberlunzie Man; i. e, according to fome, the man with a
wallet at his back; and according to others, a beggar cloathed in rags and tatters, alluding to the character in which he was difguifed. See Callander's Antient Scottilh Poems, Pages 17 and 79.
(r) Orland. Fug. Cant. XIII.
(s) Hawkins's Hift. IV. I, \&cc.
(t) See No. CXXX1, CXXXVI, in the following Collection.
(u) Polybius, vid. Differtation où l'on fait voir, que les merveilleux effets, attribuez à la Muligus des Aaciens, \&ec. par M. Buratte. Memoires de Liter. Tonı, VII.

Policy was not, however, the only motive to the cultivation of Mufic among rude nations. In the early ages, many of them tended flocks or herds ; and their method of life admitting much leifure, they naturally fought to fill it up by amufements agreeable thereto, of which, Mufic and Poetry were the chief. This was remarkably the cafe of the Arcadians above-mentioned; and fo partial were they to foft and paftoral ftrains, that even in war, like the Lacedemonians, and fome others, they ufed no mufical inftruments but flutes.

Others, whofe manners were lets foftened, were more addied to hunting and petty wars, and this difpoftion would neceff rily affect both their Poetry and Mufic; employing a different fet of images in the former, and in the latter accents more wild and mafculine.-Thefe remarks are particularly applicable to the ancient Highlanders, who borrow moff of their poetic images from the battle or the chace, ( $w$ ) and their Poems are full of ideas of felf importance and ambition, the great incentives to war and rapine.

Self-complacent and ferocious as the ideas of a barbarian Chief may be, an uncivilized ftate is always attended with a certain degree of gloom and melancholy. Man was born for fociety and c nnot be happy in folitude: add to this, that the hunter is not always fuccefsful ; and few warriors are conflantly victorious. Thefe reflections, with the conftan. ufe of Mufic in funeral obfequies, will fufficiently account for the plaintive and melancholic tincture of a great proportion of ancient Mufic, which has an effect analogous to Mufic in the minor mode; though, frictly fpeaking, the prefent doctrine of modes and keys is entirely modern, and few very ancient airs can be thoroughly accommodated to it. In tunes apparently minor, the 7 th was not fharped, even when fometimes the 6 th was $(x)$ and the air was permitted to modulate from key to key, (to fpeak in modern terms) with fcarce any other law than that of the compofer's ear. Sumetimes a very fhort air appears to conclude in a different mode from what it begins in ; $(y)$
( $\quad v$ ) Influence of Poetry, \&cc. Page 8.
( $x$ ) See No. XXVI, XXXV, LXII, \&c. in this Collection.
(y) See No. XX, XXI, XXX, scc.
(x) See No. XXXI, LXI, XCIV, \&cc.

3 ]
and at others, concludes in the harmony of the $4^{\text {th }}$ or $5^{\text {th }}$ of the key; inftead of that of the key itrelf. $(z)$

One of the moft obvious peculiarities of Scottifh Mufic is the affected omiffion of certain notes in the fcale, particularly the 4 th and 7 th, (a) and almot any other interval. This has been accounted for from the fuppofed contractednefs of antient inftruments; it feems, however, too great a beauty to afcribe to fuch a caufe; and it is fingular enough that the fame peculiarity is not only to be obierved in fome Irifh airs, but even in the Chinefe Mufic ; $(b)$ and Dr. Burney has conjectsred, from a curious paffage in Plutarch's Dialogues, that this was the original enharmonic fcale of the Greeks. (c)

No nation has ever applied Mufic to a greater variety of ufeful purpofes than the Scots, particularly in the Highlands. The animation they receive from the bagpipe is notorious, and confirmed by a modern inftance, little fhort of, and better authentica!ed, than the wonderful ftories of the antient Mufic. At the battle of Quebec (1760) whilf the Britifh troops were retreating in confufion, the General complained to a field officer of Frafer's Regiment of the bad behaviour of his corps: "Sir," anfwered he, with fome warmth, "you did very wrong in "forbidding the pipers to play this morning; nothing encourages "Highlanders fo much in a day of action; nay, even now, they "would be of ufe" The experiment was tried, and immediately on hearing their national Mufic, they returued and formed with greas alacrity in the rear. (d)

The modern Highlanders (as the Greeks of old) accompany almoft every kind of work with Mufic. The fongs ufed in the Hebrides, and on the weftern coafts, are called Luinizs; they are generally very fort and plaintive. "T hey are fung by the women, not only at their di" verfions, but during almoft every kind of work, where more than
" one perfon is employed, as milking cows, watching the folds, full-
or ing of clotb, grinding of grain with the quern, or hand-mill, hay-

## making,

(a) Sce No. XIX, XX, XXI, XXV, XXVI, XXX, XLIII, \&c.
(b) Burney's Hift. Vol. I. P. 34, and 497.
(c) See the fpec mens in Du Halde's Hift. of China, Vol. 111.
(d) Intluence of Poetry, \&c. Page I3.
"t making, and cutting down corn. (e)." At Raafay, Dr Johnfon found the women reaping (as is their cuftom while the men bind up their fheaves) and "the ftrokes of the fi: kle were timed by the mo"tion of the harveff fong, in which all their voi es were united " $(f)$ The men too have their iorrum, or fongs for rowing, ( $g$ ) to which they keep $t$ me with their oars, as the women likewife do when their operations admit of it. When the $f$ me airs are fing in the hours of relaxation, the time is marked by the motion of a napkin, which all the performers lay hold of. In finging, one perfon leads the band; but in a certain part of the tune he ftops to take breath, while the reft ftrike in and complete the air, pronouncing to it a chorus of words and fyllables, generally of no fignification. (b)

They are likewife very fond of the Bagpipe to accompany their meals, and the vifitant of an Highland chief is commonly entertained with fi me national airs while he fits at meat. (i)
There is fomething peculiar in the Mufic of the St Kildians, though their cnly mufical inftrument is one of the moft contemptible in being, wiz. the Jew's Harp. "The Mufes of St Kilda are as fimple " as its inhabitants: At the conclufion of the fifhing feafon, when the "s winter's ftore of this little commonwealth is falely depofited in a " houfe. called Tigh-a-bbarra, its whole members refort thither, as " being the moft tpacious room in their dominions, and hold a fo"s lemn affemoly. There they fing, with gratitude and joy, one of "their beft reel-airs, to words importing: What more would we " have? there is fore of cuddies and fayth, of perich and allachan, " (k) laid up for us in Tigh-a-bharra." (l)

There is alfo a beautiful fimplicity in the poetry of this ifland, of which the following fpecimen may not be unacceptable, it being the elegy of a young woman of St. Kilda, who had loft her hufband by a fall from the rocks, an accident not unfrequent in catching the wild
(e) Infuence of Poetry, \&cc. Page 10.
(f) Journey to the Weftern Iflands, Pige 139 .
(g) See No. XXXIX. in the fubfequent Collection.
(b) Influence of Poetry, \&cc. Fage 10.
(i) Fobnnin's Journey, Page 297, \&c.
( $k$ ) Kinds of fifhes.
fowl of thofe parts: "In yonder foa ( $m$ ) left I the youth whom I " loved. But lately he fkipped and bounded from rock to rock. " Dexterous was he in making every inftrument the farm required " diligent in bringing home my tender flocks. You went, O , my "s love! upon von ha:ging cliff, but fear meafured not thy fteps. "Thy foot only flipt-you fell never $m$ re to rife! [hy blood "ftained yon floping rocks; thy brains lay fcattered all around ; all "s thy wounds gufhed at once. Floating on the furface of the deep, " the cruel waves tore thee afunder. 'Thy mother came, her grey "f bairs uncovered with the curch : ( $n$ ) Thy fifter came"; we mourned "c togethe: : Thy brother came, he leffened not the cry of Sorrow. "Gloomy and fad we all beheld thee from afar. O thou that waft " the feven-fold bleffing of thy friends, the fhiny l'on (0) of their "f fupport! Now alas! my fhare of the birds is heard fcreaming in "t the clouds ; my fhare of the eggs is already feized on by the ftrong"s er party. In yonder foa left I the youth whom I loved" ( $p$ )

Among the Lowland Scots Tunes fome of the moft antient are No. II. VIII XVIII. XLI. LVIII LXXXV. in the following C $1-$ lection. Of the former of thefe Sir J. Hawkins relates the following anecdote: Queen Mary, confort of William III. having a mind one afternoon to be entertained with mufic, fent for Mr. Gofling, a gentleman of her chapel ; Mrs. Arabella Hunt, who had a fine voice; and Mr . H. Purcell : and after they had performed feveral compofitions of the latter, her Majefty growing weary, afked Mrs. Hunt to fing the old Scots Ballad of "Cold and Raw," which fhe did, and accompanied herfelf upon the Lute, much to the mortification of Purcell, who fat at the harpfichord unemployed; and to let her Majefty know that he remembered it, he made the air of this tune the bafs to a movement in his next Birth-day Ode. (q)

There is confiderable difficulty in adjufting the more antient tunes.
(l) Influence of Poetry, \&c. Page 9.
( $m$ ) A fmall rocky Inand near S:. Kilda.
(n) A kerchief
(o) A rope of raw hides-a very valuable article with thefe people.
$(p)$ Infuence of portry, \& \& . Page 9 .
(q) Gen. H ft. of Mufic. Vol. IV. p. 6.

Frequently among feveral copies, all written by the natives, no two were found perfectly alike; and it was not always eafy to afcertain the moft genuine. Some tunes, originally compofed to the Harp, may have been confiderably altered to fuit the Bagpige. Others have been dabbled with by modern Muficians, who have perhaps not always improved fo much as they have altered them.

With regard to the performance of the following airs, it may not be impertinent to obferve, that they will produce the beft effect on thofe inftruments moft capable of expreffion, fuch are the Violin, German Flute, and Piano Forte. In the performance of moft national Mufic, and in particular the Scottifh, there are fome peculiarities which can hardly be expreffed in notes; nor muft the time be too ftricly adhered to, ( $r$ ) fince, in all probability, the original authors of the more antient airs, knew no more of our laws of time than of harmony. To relifh the beauties of this kind of Mufic, it is neceffary to enter into the fpirit of it, and nothing can more contribute to this than the hearing it performed by the natives, who are generally enthufiaftically attached
to it. The little grace notes, however, which are moflly to be per: formed with rapidity, may be of fervice to affift a ftranger. The Strathfpeys, it thould be remembered, mult be played confiderably flower than the other Reels.

It need hardly be added, that the baffes are modern; many of them the compofition of the firft mafters of the prefent age; and fome of the airs, which never appeared with any kind of accompaniment before, were with difficulty made to fubmit to any'; and often bid a total defiance to modern rules.
Should the prefent work meet with public encouragement, it is propofed to be fucceeded by a fimiliar collection of Irifh, and other national, airs; a work which, when complete, may not only entertain the lovers of Mufic, and gratify enquirers into the early ftate and hiftory of that elegant art; but, from the analogy conftantly to be obferved between the original manners of a people and their native Mufic, afford ufeful hints to perfons engaged in more ferious and philofophic ftudies.
(r) Burney's Prefent State of Mufic in Germany, Vol. I. p. 254, and M'Donald's Preface, p. 4.

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#  





2
No. III.
There's nae luck about the Houfe .


No V.
Ofwald's Scots Meafure.
告 9 者

|  | (1) |
| :---: | :---: |

 N! VI. The Lafs wi' the golden hair.



for b lay संग













> No XII.

Cameron has got his Wife again.




The Parks of Kitburnie.


 (t) )


$$
\mathrm{N}^{\circ} \mathrm{XVI}
$$

Mifs Ranfey's Reel.

| N\| N| |
| :---: |





N. XX. Hithil-uil-agus. Skye Air.





(f)

# Mifs Blair's Ree1. 



## 










A Highland Air.
N? XXX.






N? XXXII.
Dunbarton's Drims.

 gever

No XXXIII. Och is Och mar ata mi. or A Highland Air.






Ne XXXVT .

 (frym










No XJ.III. Se Norman Mo I.eod's lament. A Skye Air.






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24
$$

N? XIN.
Hopetoun Houfe.





 र.Tenderly.



> N! XLIX.

The bonny Lafs of Fannhiver.


$$
\mathbf{N}!\mathbf{L I}
$$

The Ploughman.
(fanmin


No LIII. Mifs M. Skinner's Reel.


Jet's to the Ard.
A Strathfpey.


 $\Rightarrow$




## N? LVI. The Scots Ronnet.





He hirpled till her.


(S)
(f) rex ar



1.1
N? J.XIV.
Open the door to thrat.
资最



N? LXVII. Hooly and fairly.
In the Duenna.




N? LXVIII,

Kathrine Oggie.




> No IXXX.
'The waefu' Heart .
 (3)



N? J, XXI.
Over the Water to Charlic.


N ${ }^{\circ}$ LXXII.
Had awa' Donald.



> N? IXXIII. Thou art gone awa' Marv.





## N: IXXV.

I ha'e laid a herring in fa't.

(告



## N? I.XXVII.

The ranting Highlandman.
In tho Highland Reel.

 N? L.XXVIII. Becaufe he was a bonny Lad.

N? I XXIX.
De'el take the War:
In the Duenna.








 (1)
 (ziofir



44
N? LXXXIV. The Bufh aboon 'I'raquar.
In the Inenna








46
No LXXXVIII. Peggie Imun 1o'e thee.




No LXXXIX. Whiftle o'er the leave o't.

 ?

N? XC.
The Lafs of Peattie's Mill.









(20: Pc ll.







The Tin Trea.
Strathfpey.




N! XCVII.
Rothemurches Rant.
 जicqto
(f x mex




(f) गN N N


52
N! XCIX.
I have a wife o' my ain.







$$
\text { No }^{0} \text { CII. Mifs Katie Hall's Reel. }
$$




54



 (vo ev.








> N: CIX. A St Kilda fong and dance.


र2

The Ruffian's Rant.
Strathfere.


> yo cexif.

O'er the Hills and far away.
In tle Begsar's (opera.

(f)


## N: CXIV. Marierat Nion Donait. Highland Air.



60
v! exvi.

- Peggie's Wedding.












62
N? CXX.
Scornfu' Nancis.
"In the Gentle Shepherd.



 N? CXXI. And this is nae mine ain Houfe.




No CXXII.
Iady M. Menzie's Ree1.









 (z) सम


㸉






N? CXXVIII.



N? CXXXX.




 (3) Ficy


 1:

N? CXXX1IL. Jiovg is the caufe of my Mourning.










NO CXXXVII.
The Braes of Yarrow.




 N? CXXXVIII. A phiurag ghaolach.


 (

 $\lim _{1}^{2} 1$ (1)
 2l|P



