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Thomas Pennant

Frontmatter

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A Tour in Scotland, and Voyage to the Hebrides, MDCCLXXII

The naturalist and traveller Thomas Pennant (several of whose other works are reissued in the Cambridge Library Collection) published this account of a journey through Scotland and its islands in 1774. Pennant (1726–98) had already written one account of Scotland, in 1771. (He later claimed that by 'shewing that it might be visited with safety' he had created a tourist boom.) His great enthusiasm was for the Hebrides, and more than half of the book describes his voyage around the islands, though he was frustrated by bad weather in getting to Staffa. He transcribes instead an account by Sir Joseph Banks, who had visited in the same year, and in his preface he acknowledges the researches and notes on particular places which had been provided by friends and correspondents. This is a genial account of the history, environment and people of a region still exotic to many Britons.

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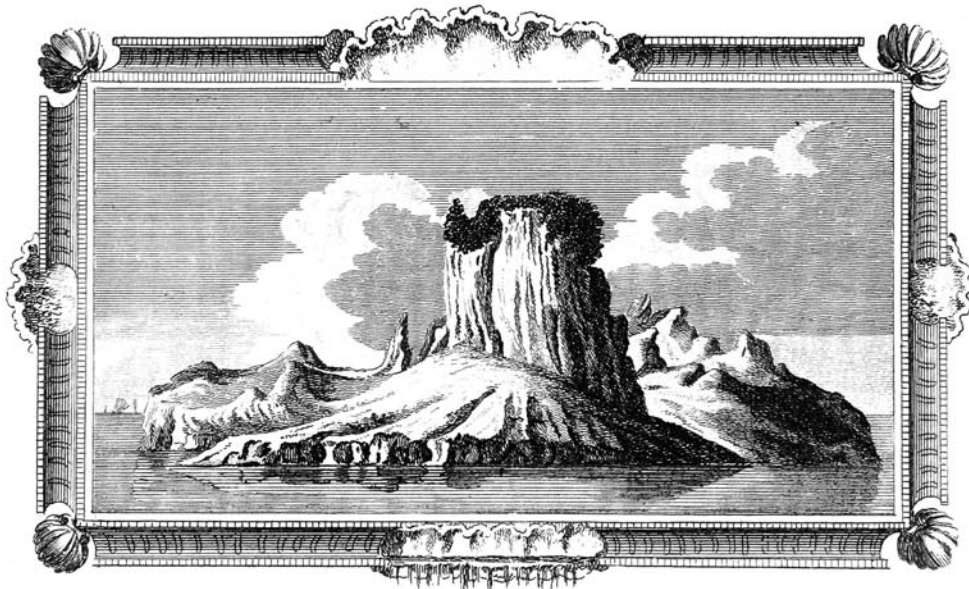
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A
T O U R
IN
S C O T L A N D ,
AND
VOYAGE TO THE HEBRIDES :
M D C C L X X I I .



C H E S T E R ,
Printed by John Monk,
M D C C L X X I V .

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[i]

T O

JOSEPH BANKS, Esq;

DEAR SIR,

I Think myself so much indebted to you, for making me the vehicle for conveying to the public the rich discovery of your last voyage, that I cannot dispense with this address the usual tribute on such occasions. You took from me all temptation of envying your superior good fortune, by the liberal declaration you made that the HEBRIDES were my ground, and yourself, as you pleasantly expressed it, but an interloper. May I meet with such, in all my adventures!

Without lessening your merit, let me say that no one has less reason to be sparing of his stores of knowledge. Few possess so large a share: you enjoy it without ostentation; and with a facility of communication, the result of natural endowments joined with an immensity of observation, collected in parts of the world, before, either of doubtful existence, or totally unknown. You have enriched yourself with the treasures of the globe, by a circumnavigation, founded on the most liberal and scientific principles.

a

The

D E D I C A T I O N .

The xvith century received lustre from the numbers of generous volunteers of rank and fortune, who, distinguishing themselves by the contempt of riches, ease, and luxury, made the most hazardous voyages, like yourself, animated by the love of true glory.

In reward, the name of BANKS will ever exist with those of CLIFFORD, RALEIGH and WILLUGHBY, on the rolls of fame, celebrated instances of great and enterprising spirits: and the *arctic* SOLANDER must remain a fine proof that no climate can prevent the seeds of knowledge from vegetating in the breast of innate ability.

You have had justly a full triumph decreed to you by your country. May your laurels for ever remain unblighted! and if she has deigned to twine for me a civic wreath, return to me the same good wish.

I am, with every due acknowledgement,

DEAR SIR,

DOWNING,
March 1, 1774.

Your obliged, and
most obedient humble Servant,

Thomas Pennant.

ADVERTISEMENT.

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THIS journey was undertaken in the summer of 1772, in order to render more complete, my preceding tour; and to allay that species of restlessness that infects many minds, on leaving any attempt unfinished. Conscious of my deficiency in several respects, I prevailed on two gentlemen to favor me with their company, and to supply by their knowledge what I found wanting in my self.

To the Rev. Mr. *John Lightfoot*, lecturer of *Uxbridge*, I am obliged for all the botanical remarks scattered over the following pages. But it gives me great pleasure to say that he means to extend his favors, by soon giving to the public a *FLORA SCOTICA*, an ample enumeration and history of the plants observed by him in the several places we visited. To Mr. *Lightfoot*, I must join in my acknowledgements, the Rev. Mr. *John Stuart of Killin*, for a variety of hints, relating to customs of the natives of the highlands, and of the islands, which by reason of my ignorance of the *Erse* or *Galic* language, must have escaped my notice. To both I was indebted for all the comforts that arise from the society of agreeable and worthy companions.

I must not omit my thanks to the several gentlemen who favored me at different times with accounts and little histories of the places of their residence, or their environs. To begin with the most southern, my best acknowledgements are due to

Mr. *Aikin*, Surgeon, for the account of *Warrington*.

Mr. *Thomas West* favored me with several things relating to the North of *Lancashire*.

Doctor *Brownrigg*, the Rev. Doctor *Burn*, *Joseph Nicholson*, Esq. of *Hawksbery*, and the Rev. Mr. *Farish* of *Carlisle*, afforded me large supplies relating to their counties of *Westmoreland* and *Cumberland*.

In *SCOTLAND*, *John Maxwell*, Esq. of *Broomholme*, and Mr. *Little* of *Langholme* favored me with several remarks relating to *Eskdale*.

The Rev. Mr. *Jaffray*, minister of *Ruthwell*, with a history of his parish.

Sir *William Maxwell*, Bart. of *Springkeld*, with variety of drawings, found at the *Roman* station at *Burrens**.

* I must not omit my thanks to the Rev. Mr. *Cordiner*, minister of the *episcopal* chapel at *Banff*, for an elegant drawing of the urn in the preceding volume.

ADVERTISEMENT.

John Goldie, Esq; of *Dumfries*, supplied me with numbers of observations on that town and county.

The Rev. Mr. *Duncan Macfarlane* of *Drummond*, with an account of his parish.

Mr. *John Golborn*, engineer, with an account of *Glasgow*, and various miscellaneous remarks.

For the excellent account of *Paisley*, I am indebted to Mr. *Francis Douglas*.

The Rev. Mr. *Gershom Stuart* sent me materials for an account of the isle of *Arran*.

Alexander Campbel, Esq; of *Ballole*, and *Charles Freebain*, Esq; communicated several observations relating to the isle of *Ilay*.

JOSEPH BANKS, Esq; communicated to me his description of STAFFA; and permitted my artist to copy as many of the beautiful drawings in his collection, as would be of use in the present work.

I must acknowledge myself in a particular manner indebted to the Rev. Mr. *Donald Macquin* of *Kilmuir*, in the isle of *Skie*, for a most instructive correspondence relating to the antient customs of the place, and to its various antiquities. A small part I have mingled with my own account: but the greater share, in justice to the merit of the writer, I shall deliver un-mutilated in a future appendix.

The Rev. Mr. *Doune*, minister of *Gair-loch*, obliged me with various remarks on his neighborhood,

The Rev. Mr. *Donald Macleod* of *Glenelg*, the same, respecting his.

To Doctor *Ramsay* of *Edinburgh*, I must return thanks, for a variety of services: to Mr. *George Paton* of the same place, for an indefatigable and unparalleled assiduity in procuring from all parts any intelligence that would be of use to the work in view.

The several subjects referred to in the course of the work, are reserved for an appendix the second volume, which will be published with all reasonable speed. It will comprehend the travels through part of *Argyleshire*, *Breadalbane*, *Athol*; the remaining part of *Perthshire*; the counties of *Angus* and *Merns*; *Fife*shire, *Sterling*, and *Linlithgow*, *Edinburgh*; and from thence by *Kelfo*, into *Northumberland*; *Durham* and *Craven* in *Yorkshire*, till the conclusion at my own house. With this will be given a corrected map of *North-Britain* and its islands.

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A D D I T I O N S.

IN *tab.* I. is engraven, a species of fibula, cut out of a flat piece of silver, of a form better to be expressed by the figure than words. Its breadth is, from one exterior side to the other, four inches. This was discovered lodged in the mud, on deepening a fish-pond in *Brayton Park* in *Cumberland*, the seat of *Sir Wilfrid Lawson*, and communicated to me by *Doctor Brownrigg*. With it was found a large silver hook of two ounces weight. The length of the shank from the top to the curvature at bottom, four inches and three eights. The hook not so long.

The *Mac-kinnons* possess a small part of *Skie*. Are a very ancient people, and call themselves *Clan Alpin*, or the descendants of *Alpin*, a *Scotch* monarch in the 9th century.

In *Skie*, when a tacksman has a greater farm than he can manage, he often sets off part to a *Bowman* or *Aireach*, who takes care of the stock of cattle on a certain tract; and binds himself to give to the tacksman every year four stone of cheese, and two of butter, from each couple of milch cows. If there is any arable ground, he is provided with horses and a plough; and feed sufficient to sow it; and receives part of the crop; and some additional grass ground for two or three milch cows, for his trouble.